Forward SGF to map out next 20 years in Springfield

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

In August, the City’s Planning and Development Department kicked off Forward SGF, an 18-24-month initiative that will result in a new comprehensive plan to map out Springfield’s future for the next 20 years.

Pictured to the left is the Forward SGF Advisory Team.


“A community-wide comprehensive planning process creates a vision for what kind of city and community we want Springfield to be and establishes a path to make that vision a reality.”

– Mary Lilly Smith, Planning & Development director

Similar to Vision 20/20, the City’s previous comprehensive plan created in the late 1990s, Forward SGF will answer such questions as:

• What is the overall vision for the community over the next 20 years?
• What is the preferred growth pattern for the community?
• Should the city’s boundaries be expanded to include areas that have developed or will develop at urban densities?
• What should be done to improve our transportation systems – streets, sidewalks and trails?
• How do we accommodate commercial growth and protect vulnerable neighborhoods?
• How do we create places that encourage personal interaction and build community pride?
• What types of housing are needed currently and how will demographic trends impact future needs?
• How can existing codes be improved to better

On Nov. 5, Springfield voters will be asked whether or not to renew the ¼-cent Transportation Sales Tax and the ¾-cent Police-Fire Pension Sales Tax. An overview of the two taxes is below.

1/8-CENT TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX

First approved by voters in 1996 and renewed every four years since then, the ¼-cent Transportation Sales Tax has generated approximately $102 million to fund transportation system improvements in Springfield, funding street resurfacing and rehabilitation, traffic flow, safety and walkability projects.

In August, Springfield City Council evaluated the possibility of a longer-term cycle option for the tax. The council voted to maintain a sunset of the tax, but extend it to 20 years. A longer term would change the way the City is able to use the tax funds:

• The City would have the flexibility to respond to unknown future needs, such as those related to a job growth project or critical infrastructure needs.
• The City could utilize bonding to accelerate certain projects and/or to address larger scale projects that might not otherwise be feasible because they would require too large of an amount of “pay-as-you-go” money.

Remember to vote Nov. 5
Public input and project prioritization processes will continue to be conducted on a regular basis to collect feedback to be used in the selection of future projects and programs over the 20-year term.

The City also completes continuous long-term Capital Improvement Project planning which has a citizen input component. That, and a Citizen Tax Oversight Committee process will continue to guide accountability.

PROPOSED PROJECTS

• Campbell Avenue and Walnut Lawn Intersection
• National Avenue and Division Street Intersection
• Kansas Expressway and Walnut Lawn Intersection
• Kansas Expressway and Sunset Street Intersection
• National Avenue from Battlefield Road to Walnut Lawn
• Central Street phase 2—Benton Avenue to Clay Avenue.

PROPOSED CITY-WIDE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

• Major street resurfacing/rehabilitation
• Traffic flow and safety
• Walkability
• Cost-share/economic development projects
• Bridge repair and replacement.

The ½-cent Transportation Sales Tax ballot issue is a sales tax continuation with no additional cost to taxpayers. A significant portion of the revenue generated comes from non-residents. Sales tax funds have been used to increase roadway capacity and improve safety on major roadways that serve the region.

The tax is estimated to generate approximately $22 million in the first four years of the cycle for voter-approved projects and programs. When possible, funding is leveraged with other partners, including county, state, federal governments and private developers. Renewed for the sixth time in 2016, the tax has passed with more than 80% approval the past four cycles. The tax most recently passed with nearly 86% approval.

Proposed projects for the first four years of the ½-cent Transportation Sales Tax cycle were selected through a combination of public input, City department and partner agency assessed need, prior public/partner agency commitment and equitable geographic distribution.

More than 1,600 citizens provided their input on project priorities via a survey conducted over the summer. Citizens were asked to identify their top five projects and offer feedback to help guide the investment of additional funds if available.

For more information about the ½-cent Transportation Sales Tax and to view a list of projects that have been completed with ½-cent funds, visit springfieldmo.gov/election.

3/4-CENT POLICE-FIRE PENSION SALES TAX

Springfield’s police-fire pension plan was created in 1946 to provide for the well-being of disabled and retired Springfield police officers and firefighters. As of June 30, 2008, the plan’s funded ratio had dropped to a low of 35.5%-funded status.

Springfield’s police-fire pension plan was greatly underfunded, and Springfield citizens voted in 2009 to implement a ¾-cent Police-Fire Pension Sales Tax to help address this community need and renewed the five-year tax in 2014. As of June 30, 2018, the total assets in the pension plan had increased to $428.7 million with a funded ratio of 86%.

All of the revenue from the sales tax since it was implemented in May 2010, is contributed to the pension plan for police officers and firefighters. At the time of the 2009 election, officials made it clear the tax would need to be renewed in 2014 to continue toward 100% funding of the plan. With 86% funded as of June 2018, the Police-Fire Pension Board and Springfield City Council voted to ask the voters for another renewal, in order to reach the 100%-funded level.

After the April 2014 continuation of the ¾-cent Police-Fire Pension Sales Tax, by June 30, 2018, the total assets in the pension plan had increased to $428.7 million with a funded ratio of 86%.

The pension plan is still below the 100% funded level necessary for a “closed” pension plan to be sustainable. Because it is a closed plan, (meaning no new members) the goal is to have 100% of the money (assets) needed to pay expected future retirement benefits (liabilities). While an 86%-funded level may be considered “healthy” for open pension plans, a closed plan is different – new employees are being added to a closed account, so there are no new employee contributions being added to the plan.

By state statute, this tax must sunset and come back to the voters for renewal every five years. If the tax is renewed in 2019, the tax will sunset when the City’s self-funded plan reaches 100% funded status, or after five years, whichever comes first. Actuaries project it will take a maximum of five years for the pension plan to reach 100% funded.

For more information about the ¾-cent Police-Fire Pension Sales Tax, visit springfieldmo.gov/election.

FORWARD SGF Advisory Team will act as the “public face for the comprehensive plan’s planning process and demonstrates a commitment on behalf of the City to seek meaningful input from citizens in the community.”

– Principal Planner Randall Whitman

Vision 20/20 laid out the plans for several amenities Springfielddians enjoy today and spurred economic growth in downtown and beyond. Accomplishments include Jordan Valley Park and ice park; Hammons Field; the Springfield Expo Center; the Springfield Sports Commission, which promotes and develops Springfield as a sports venue; the establishment of the Springfield-Greene County Park Board; and the development of an annexation strategy for the City, neighborhood programs and the City’s urban service area.

The Forward SGF Advisory Team, comprised of 23 community members, was approved by City Council at its Aug. 12 meeting.

According to Principal Planner Randall Whitman, the Forward SGF Advisory Team will act as the “public face for the comprehensive plan’s planning process and demonstrates a commitment on behalf of the City to seek meaningful input from citizens in the community.”

The team will also serve as a community sounding board and will meet throughout the process to review and discuss issues and direction and then provide feedback on a draft plan for Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council consideration.

FORWARD SGF ADVISORY TEAM

• Tom Prater, chair – Zone 2
• David Atkisson – Zone 4
• Laurel Bryant – Zone 2
• Brad Erwin – County
• Leslie Forrester – Zone 2
• Tammy Jahnke – County
• Britton Jobe – Zone 4
• Amy Kern Stanfield – Zone 3
• Ashley Norgard – Zone 4
• Dee Ogilvy – Zone 1
• Daniel Ogunyemi – Zone 2
• John Oke-Thomas – County
• Paige Oxendine – Zone 3
• Danny Perches – County
• Pete Radecki – Zone 1
• Tom Rankin – Zone 4
• Robin Robeson – Zone 4
• Tim Rosenbury – Zone 4
• Debbie Shantz Hart – Zone 2
A number of ordinances have been passed in the City of Springfield to cover noise limits and noise control. Generally speaking, noise emanating from private property in a residential district is prohibited between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. The first step is to report a noise violation to the Springfield Police Department at 417-864-1810.

Examples of a noise violation are continuous and frequent barking from dogs, loud or disturbing music or noise from a residence or vehicle, especially at night, or loud and continuous noise from construction sites or commercial vehicles during certain hours of the day and night. There are exceptions that allow certain noises under limited circumstances.

“At its core, a comprehensive plan is a guide for future land use, but it is also an opportunity to really dream about what we want our community to become,” said Mary Lilly Smith, Planning and Development director. “A community-wide comprehensive planning process creates a vision for what kind of city and community we want Springfield to be and establishes a path to make that vision a reality. In addition to guiding public infrastructure and investment, the comprehensive plan answers questions such as, ‘how do we focus our growth?’ and ‘what public policies will help us get there?,’” she added.
New program connects gifted students and their families with mentors

By Jamie Orlando, Health Department, for SGFNN

According to the National Association for Gifted Children, those in low socioeconomic groups remain largely underserved in gifted and talented (G/T) programs. Yet gifted and talented students span all cultures and socioeconomic groups.

In Springfield, a new Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation’s (OACAC) program called Gifted Objectives Accelerating Learning (GOAL) addresses the educational disparities among low-income youth who are gifted or have high potential. It launched during the 2018-2019 school year.

Through collaboration with community partners, GOAL works to identify high potential students and then offer them mentorship and enrichment activities.

“The other day in class, my son was asked to list people that he feels support him. There were only three on his list: Mom, Dad and his mentor, Matt,” said Rene, whose son John participates in GOAL. “This program has given him confidence. He loves the days he can hang out with his mentor. I love to see him sharing information with his mentor that he would never share with me. Their relationship is very special!”

OACAC and GOAL partners developed training highlighting the intersections of poverty, behavior, and giftedness, which is provided to parents, schools and youth service providers. Once identified, GOAL participants are connected with volunteer education champion mentors. Together, they build relationships and increase support to work toward educational success.

Throughout the school year, enrichment activities give participants opportunities to increase their real-world knowledge in a fun environment. While kids and mentors are participating in activities, parents are given information on how to best support their child’s educational success.

Rene learned about GOAL through the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield. She was interested because the project pairs gifted students with mentors who are also gifted, and she saw great potential benefit for her son. Rene says John and Matt spend one-on-one time together doing a variety of things, from playing board games and talking, to academics and more.

“Matt understands and spends time with John because he’s special. He is patient and caring,” said Rene.

In addition to the GOAL project, OACAC offers the Foster Grandparent Program, Head Start/Early Head Start, Neighborhood Centers, Housing Assistance Program, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and Weatherization Assistance Program. All share the common mission of alleviating the causes and conditions of poverty across southwest Missouri and helping people achieve self-sufficiency.

To learn more about GOAL or any other OACAC programs, visit oac.ac.

GETTING CONNECTED

The Community Health Advocates (CHAs) at the Springfield-Greene County Health Department serve as resource specialists who bridge gaps and reduce barriers to better health for those in the Springfield area. They help their clients by referring them to community resources such as the one described in the article above. To reach a CHA, please visit springfieldmo.gov/CHAreferral or call 417-893-9609.

PTA Clothing Bank announces 2019-2020 schedule

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The PTA Clothing Bank’s regular hours are 2:30-5 p.m. on Thursdays and 9-11 a.m. on the Saturdays it is open, which are indicated below, in addition to the Thursdays. Make sure you arrive before 4:30 p.m. on Thursdays so you have enough time to shop before they close at 5 p.m. The clothing bank is located at Study Alternative Center, 2343 W. Olive. Learn more about the PTA Clothing Bank on SGFNeighborhoodNews.com and follow it on Facebook for updates.

2019-2020 SCHEDULE

• October: 3, 10, 17, 19 (Saturday), and 24.
• November: 7, 14, 16 (Saturday), and 21.
• December: 5 and 7 (Saturday).
• January: 16, 23 and 30. No Saturdays.
• February: 6, 13, 20 and 27. No Saturdays.
• April: 2, 4 (Saturday), 16 and 23 (last day for the school year).

Join Chief Williams this fall for Coffee with the Chief

Oct. 17: 8-8:30 a.m.
Virtual Coffee with the Chief Facebook Live
SPD Facebook Page, @SGFPolice

Nov. 20: 7-8:30 a.m.
Big Momma’s Coffee & Espresso Bar
217 E. Commercial Street

Dec. 18: 7-8:30 a.m.
Panera Bread
2535 N. Kansas Expressway

See ad p. 3
Greene County Senior Peer Support Program aims to improve mental health of older adults

By Julie Viele, Health Department, for SGFNN

Retirement is known as the Golden Years, but for many seniors, growing older is a real challenge. About 1 in 5 adults over 55 years of age experience a mental health concern and many of these adults do not receive the emotional and social support they need. Many seniors become socially isolated and don’t know where to turn for help. A new program in Greene County aims to change that.

The goal is to certify 100 senior peer supporters with the hope of helping seniors fulfill their golden years through one-on-one support and referrals to appropriate help and support.

The focus of the Greene County Senior Peer Support Program is to improve the mental health of older adults. Senior volunteers are trained to recognize potential mental health problems, offer support, connect with other seniors through shared experience, and provide appropriate mental health resources and care.

NAMI Southwest Missouri and partners received the Community Foundation of the Ozarks’ Senior Mental Health grant to fund the program. The goal is to certify 100 senior peer supporters with the hope of helping seniors fulfill their golden years through one-on-one support and referrals to appropriate help and support.

Seniors interested in becoming a senior peer supporter must attend a free two-day, 12-hour training course and be at least 55 years old. The two-day training includes the Mental Health First Aid course, a national program to teach the skills to respond to the signs of mental illness and substance use. Lived experience (own lived experience or with family and/or friends) and knowledge of mental health are recommended but not required.

Partners include Missouri State University Psychology Department, Gerontology Program, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Springfield-Greene County Health Department, SeniorAge and Give 5. The program will focus on recruiting senior peer supporters in areas throughout Springfield that have a high proportion of senior adults with poor mental health.

If you are interested in becoming a senior peer supporter, please visit http://bit.ly/seniorpeersupport. Training sessions will be held in October and November and in January and February 2020. Questions? Please call Dr. Lisa Hall at 417-836-6943 or email Julie Viele at jviele@springfieldmo.gov.
Community remembrance will bring focus to pursuit of racial justice

By Teresa Bledsoe, Springfield Public Schools, for SGFNN

Creating greater awareness and understanding of an act of racial injustice that occurred in Springfield 113 years ago is the purpose of a community remembrance planned for Oct. 2. In 1906, three African American men named Horace Duncan, Fred Coker and William Allen were lynched in downtown Springfield.

The remembrance will include the dedication of an historical marker in Park Central Square. An Equal Justice Essay Contest will also encourage Springfield Public Schools students to reflect on the impact of racial injustice.

“We hope the remembrance we are planning will prompt meaningful conversations in our community which acknowledge injustices and lead to reconciliation and healing.” – Mayor Ken McClure

The Springfield Community Remembrance Coalition is organizing the remembrance in collaboration with Equal Justice Initiative (EJI). EJI is working with communities nationwide to commemorate and recognize the traumatic era of lynching by collecting soil from lynching sites across the country and erecting historical markers in these spaces.

EJI has documented over 4,400 documented victims of lynchings that took place in the United States between the end of Reconstruction in 1877 and 1950.

“No matter how difficult, it is important that we own our city’s history and grow from that experience to create a more inclusive and just community,” said Wes Pratt, Missouri State University chief diversity officer and member of the Remembrance Coalition.

HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION SET FOR OCT. 2

Community members are invited to participate in the public dedication of the historical marker at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 2, on Park Central Square. The dedication ceremony will feature remarks by Mayor McClure and Gabrielle Daniels, an EJI representative. Lyle Foster will be the keynote speaker.

Students from Springfield Public Schools’ five high schools will also attend the dedication ceremony. They are invited to participate in an essay contest sponsored by EJI, which will award a minimum of $5,000 in total scholarships to essay winners.

NOV. 1 IS DEADLINE FOR EQUAL JUSTICE ESSAY CONTEST

Students in grades 9-12 who are enrolled in an SPS high school are eligible to submit an essay, which must be a minimum of 700 words and a maximum of 1,000 words and explores the connection between a particular historical event and present-day issues. The deadline to submit entries is Friday, Nov. 1. Scholarship winners will be announced Jan. 20, 2020, as part of Martin Luther King Jr. Day events. Learn more about participating in the essay contest at tinyurl.com/EJI-Springfield-EssayContest.

“Our desire is for all students to develop a deeper understanding of how racial injustice has impacted our nation which will empower them to advocate for social justice and equality as they become future leaders in our community.” – Yvania Garcia-Pusateri

Members of the Springfield Community Remembrance Coalition who participated in planning the community remembrance include: Lawrence Anderson, Teresa Bledsoe, Cheryl Clay, Lyle Foster, Jason Gage, Hope Gallamore, Yvania Garcia-Pusateri, Joan Gentry, Melissa Haase, Stephen Hall, Jack and Carolyn Hembree, Monica Horton, Ken McClure, Wes Pratt, Allison Pilley, Cora Scott and John Sellars.

Brown Bag it at Timmons Hall every 3rd Tuesday!

Tuesdays: Oct. 15 • Nov. 19 • Dec. 17
11 a.m.-3 p.m.  Free and open to the public

Bring your own lunch or come-and-go and enjoy:
• Library Book Shelf (New Arrivals!)
• Self-tour New Exhibits
• Hear from a guest speaker or artist

For groups please RSVP to Christine Peoples, Timmons Hall Coordinator, at 417-864-1046 or cpeoples@springfieldmo.gov
Financial resources available for those wanting to continue their education after high school

By Francine Pratt, Prosper Springfield, for SGFNN

By 2020, over 60% of jobs in Missouri will require an associate’s degree or higher. This means that as a community, we need to better prepare our current and future workforce. According to Lumina Foundation, those attending college today are not always the traditional college student.

About half of today’s college students don’t receive financial assistance from family. In 1975, federal Pell grants covered about 75% of college costs, while today they only cover about 25%.

Current and future college students are 42% students of color, and 31% are living below the federal poverty level (gross income of $25,700 for a family of four with two adults working). About half of today’s college students don’t receive financial assistance from family. In 1975, federal Pell grants covered about 75% of college costs, while today they only cover about 25%.

Fortunately, there are several resources available for those wanting to continue their education and aren’t sure how they are going to pay for it.

FAST TRACK WORKFORCE INCENTIVE GRANT

The state’s Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant kicked off in August. This new program is available to adults 25 and older who stopped going to college for two or more years and those under age 25 who have not been in school for at least two years. The program covers tuition and fees (but not books) to finish certification or a degree for up to four semesters. The state’s goal with the program is to have 60% of working-age adults with a high-quality certificate or degree by 2025.

Students must complete a Fast Track application at https://web.dhewd.mo.gov/studentportal/ as well as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. The governmental financial aid will pay first, and the program will cover any remaining tuition and fees. Those who already have all tuition and fees paid are eligible for an award of up to $500 to cover other education-related expenses.

Missouri State University and Ozarks Technical Community College have many qualified programs to finish or earn a certificate or degree.

MISSOURI SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN FOUNDATION

The Missouri Scholarship and Loan Foundation (moslf.org) is a nonprofit organization that provides scholarships and low-cost student loans to support completion for Missouri citizens at higher education institutions. The foundation has several programs:

Finish Line Degree Completion Grant (debt forgiveness)

This is a pilot program for Missouri public community colleges, four-year institutions and the State Technical College of Missouri (located in Linn), if the institution agrees to participate. This grant was created because past-due balances owed to higher education institutions can be a barrier for students, especially adult learners. Past-due balances are one of the reasons students do not complete higher education. In many cases, those balances must be paid to receive a copy of an official transcript. For more information, contact the financial aid office of the institution you want to attend to finish credentials.

Missouri Family Education Loan Program

This program provides a private student loan designed with borrowing options for Missouri students who have financial need but may not meet the traditional credit requirements for private loans. The funds are limited for each academic year and are available on a first come, first served basis. These funds, while available, are for interest-free loans to students attending participating schools who meet the eligibility, underwriting and other requirements. For more information, go to moslf.mohela.com.

Access Extra Scholarship

The Access Extra Scholarship is a private scholarship for students eligible for the Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program and who scored 28 or higher on the ACT. Students are required to complete an online application through Scholarship Central (myscholarshipcentral.org) which includes uploading SAR, ACT score report and answering a few questions. Awards are prioritized by first-come, first-served and they provide awards until the funding is depleted. Scholarship Central is designed for low-income high school students to assist them with applying for scholarships and interest-free loans.

Director’s Choice Grant Program

The foundation funds grants for students with a specific and urgent financial need to address challenges to reaching their educational success in Missouri public institutions. Eligible students attending community colleges, four-year institutions, and State Technical College of Missouri should contact the financial aid office at the institution where they attend school for more information. OTC and MSU utilize this program for their students.

The Missouri Department for Higher Education has a student portal designed for an individual to have one place to access and store information related to higher education completion and includes a state financial aid portal.

Francine Pratt is the director of Prosper Springfield, a collective impact initiative focused on a shared community vision to improve economic mobility in the Springfield community. The Prosper Springfield mission is to build community relationships and align community resources to create pathways that help move people to prosperity. For more information, contact Francine at 417-888-2020.

OCT. 16-20

E*Plex, Ozark Empire Fairgrounds
3001 N. Grant Ave. Free Parking & Admission

Wed.-Fri. 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.–Half-Price Day
Sun. 1-5 p.m.–Bag Day
(Bag Day–everything you can pack in a sack is $1, or $5 from the “Better Books” side.)

Adult, young adult and children’s books and most audiovisuais are $1 or less; better books are $2 and up.

Cash or Check ONLY!
Questions call 417-887-9524 or email friends@thelibrary.org.
Walk Springfield signs encourage traveling by foot through downtown

By Cara Erwin, Health Department, for SGFNN

Downtown Springfield Association (DSA) was awarded one of 20 Community Change Micro Grants by America Walks for use in 2019. DSA is using the funding to partner with the City of Springfield and the Springfield-Greene County Health Department to promote walking downtown.

Throughout downtown, street signs now encourage visitors to explore downtown by foot. The signs include an estimate of how long it will take them to walk to their favorite destinations.

“The authentic character of our historic buildings and the concentration of 60 restaurants, 20 pubs and clubs, two dozen retailers, 16 movie screens and 5 live theatre venues have created a very walkable and enjoyable experience for our residents, workers and guests,” said Rusty Worley, executive director of the DSA. “We are excited to partner with the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, Public Works and City of Springfield Public Information Office on this new program to encourage everyone to explore our great public spaces and local businesses. DSA is grateful for America Walks’ recognition of Center City’s progress and its support for enhancing walkability.”

According to the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, walking is a simple way to improve your health. Just 30 minutes of walking 3 times a week has been shown to burn calories, lower your blood sugar, improve immunity and increase life span.

The Community Change grant program supports local efforts to create safe, accessible, and enjoyable places to walk and be physically active for all community members. Since its beginning in 2015, this grant program has provided funds for a variety of projects demonstrating the creativity and passion of walking champions across the US.

“The authentic character of our historic buildings and the concentration of 60 restaurants, 20 pubs and clubs, two dozen retailers, 16 movie screens and 5 live theatre venues have created a very walkable and enjoyable experience for our residents, workers and guests.” – Rusty Worley

Downtown Springfield Association was selected from over 600 applications for projects that demonstrate the passion, creativity, and commitment of local walking champions. With support from partners, including the Juliet Ashby Foundation, Lyft, the Missouri Health Foundation, the National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability (NCHPAD), and WalkBoston, 20 projects will be supported in 2019. Awardees will work with America Walks and other members of the Every Body Walk! Collaborative to successfully complete their projects and share their lessons with other community change agents. While the projects and programs work to improve walkability, the results of each grant will have a positive change on many areas of that community.

ABOUT AMERICA WALKS

America Walks is a 20-year-old national nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering communities and advocates to create safe, accessible and enjoyable places to walk and be physically active for all. The organization provides its diverse network of over 30,000 advocates and hundreds of local, state and national organizations, with the tools, resources, and experts needed to build capacity, gain experiences, and successfully promote walking and walkability. Learn more at americawalks.org.

Thanks to all of you who do your part to make SGF better than how you found it

By Rusty Worley, for SGFNN

Revising codes for nuisance properties. Planning for the future. Cheering on those who run to be healthier. Scheduling cleanup days. It’s another busy fall for the Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) and the 21 neighborhoods it serves.

GRASS CUT QUICKER

With the recommendations from Building Development Services and the support of the NAC, City Council approved nuisance ordinance changes in June to reduce the length of grass in violation from 12 inches to 7. It also provided City staff with streamlined notice provisions which will allow contractors to act several days quicker than in the past.

EYE ON THE HORIZON

NAC participated in two separate planning sessions in August. The first was to provide input on the priorities for the consolidated plan for federal Community Development Block Grant funds over the next five years. The City is surveying dozens of different groups to shape how it will invest monies for affordable housing, economic development, public services, infrastructure and public facilities.

The next was, NAC members were given one of several workshops hosted by the City for a planning process for a new Comprehensive Plan called Forward SGF. It will take the place of Vision 20/20 and become a blueprint for the next 20 years. Neighborhood leaders were asked to identify five areas they would like to see enhanced for the city and then prioritize the top three topics out of all those listed by the group. The feedback will be gathered by the consultant, along with information obtained by community workshops across the city in early September. Residents can also offer their ideas through do-it-yourself kits available to neighborhoods and/or by going to forwardsgf.com with its innovative engagement tools, including an interactive mapping application called map.social.

CHEER RUNNERS WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

Melissa Bondy from the Bass Pro Marathon provided information on this year’s event and how neighborhoods can win a prize of up to $2,000 for cheering on the runners. It will be on Sunday, Nov. 3, and neighborhoods must have groups of 10 or more to be eligible for awards.

FALL CLEANUPS

Community Partnership began its fall schedule of neighborhood cleanups in September. It’s a great chance to free up space in the garage and remove brush and leaves. The City has budgeted cleanups for all its recognized neighborhoods. Check with your neighborhood to see if its cleanup day will be in the fall or spring.

The bottom line is that neighborhoods are at their best when the many take the time to do a little – mowing an extra bit of right-of-way, assisting a neighbor who’s behind in their yard work, investing a couple of hours to envision what could be, dressing up in a poofy skirt on a frosty fall Sunday morning to cheer on runners, or making a truck available to haul off a few wayward couches and mattresses.

All these seemingly small acts of kindness ultimately make a big difference. Thank you to all those who are doing your part to make Springfield a little better than how you found it.
Bissett Neighborhood Association: What’s it for?

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

Some evenings you can find my wife taking a walk or run around our neighborhood’s L.A. Wise Park. She’ll often run into a neighbor or two and visit a spell, and during most trips, she’ll also spend some time picking up trash—not the kind that happened to have blown in, but rather trash that was typically dumped out of the trash barrels—most likely by kids who feel a need to misbehave.

Sometimes there are kids sitting in the new pavilion and, on occasion, she will encourage them to help pick up the trash. Usually they don’t, and sometimes she has to deal with verbal abuse at the suggestion, with the predictable justifications for doing nothing. “Well, I didn’t put it there!” or “It’s not MY job!” One night recently, after getting a curse-laden tongue lashing from a girl who told the girl to just forget it and finished picking up the trash. As she started to move on with her walk, to her surprise, a boy who was with the girl told my wife, “No, we need to hear it.” I guess deep down, he knew what the girl did was wrong and that he and the other kids need direction—even if they choose (at least at the moment) to sit on the sidelines. We’ll never really know, but it might be that incident will end up being life-changing for that boy … and maybe the girl, too.

A couple of nights ago, on her walk, my wife told me about running into a neighbor who asked, “What is the Bissett Neighborhood Association for?” She felt she didn’t articulate a good answer and asked if I might talk to the neighbor sometime.

That’s what this article is about. Seems to me, neighborhood associations are “for” a lot of things, but the one common denominator, is that NAs tend to be comprised of those who would pick up that trash and encourage others to do the same, even though it’s not their “job.”

Sometimes the “trash” is just that in a city park, on the street (I know of a woman in Woodland Heights who quietly and routinely walks around a couple of blocks picking up litter). Sometimes the cleanup is mowing the yard of a neighbor who has fallen on ill health. Sometimes it might be nuisance noise, problem properties or crime that get cleaned up in part via the NA’s efforts to engage a PAR officer or other City official about the issues.

Sometimes it is about the proactive avoidance of problems by hosting speakers at meetings talking about health, wellness or other topics. Sometimes it is about the myriad social ills avoided when neighbors get to know each other better and learn about all sorts of services available to them at a Neighborhood Night Out or other social event. NAs are also gaining more and more experience working together and learning together to make things better across the city. The current neighborhood efforts related to the City’s Forward SGF 2040 Comprehensive Plan process is certainly gaining a front and center position in this regard.

So what’s the Bissett Neighborhood Association for? I guess maybe it is a lot of things. If you are someone who understands that our neighborhood is made better by those who work to improve it even though it’s not their job, maybe participating is for you. What exactly, precisely does it do? Well, I guess that depends on where the needs are, and those things are identified by the NA participants.

So if you see a need and are willing to help make things better, come out to a meeting or event. The next one is Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at Bissett Elementary. We’ll be talking about needs and activities for 2020 in our neighborhood. Maybe you have some thoughts to share, and maybe, just maybe, we’ll make a difference together.

Bissett summer activities made a difference

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

BNA just wrapped up a summer of activities. Here’s a rundown:

**June’s Neighborhood-wide Cleanup**: 50-plus homes participated with many volunteers helping load the dumpsters, make curbside pickups and recycling metal. Tons and tons of trash and brush removed!

**July’s Neighborhood-wide Yard Sale**: 30-plus households conducted yard sales across the neighborhood. It was a hot day, but most everyone involved had good success in their sales. And of course, there were plenty of neighbors meeting neighbors, as well as many coming from outside Bissett thanks to BNA’s promotional efforts.

**August’s Neighborhood Night Out**: 300-plus participants enjoyed free food and learned from over a dozen organizations and city departments. Kids played games, won prizes, saw inside a fire truck, an ambulance, and police cars, and got to meet some of those great folks that help keep our community safe and healthy.

**May and September**: The bookends to the summer’s activities were street and park cleanups to help beautify our neighborhood.
Congrats and thanks to Bradford Park’s Great Neighbors

By Dellene Nelson, for SGFNN

Our congratulations and thanks go to these “Great Neighbors.”

JULY

- Cale and Connie Garrett, 3343 S. Welwood, for medical research for a neighbor and for recycling enthusiasm.
- Phyllis Shoemaker, 1345 E. Hanover, for faithfully visiting neighbors who are hospitalized.

AUGUST

- Kay Reed, 1336 E. Hanover, for sorting and collating our newsletter
- Pat Bezdek, 1340 E. Walnut Lawn, for organizing a leftover-garage-sale-items pickup to benefit C.A.R.E.

If you have a special person in mind deserving of the Great Neighbor Award, please nominate them by calling Joyce Messerly, 887-2883 or Terry Wright, 883-4975.

Bradford Park to host Neighborhood Watch training at October neighborhood meeting

By Dellene Nelson, for SGFNN

We are sponsoring a NW training session at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15 at Immaculate Conception. Lots of informative and valuable information can be obtained during this 2 ½ hour presentation by the Springfield Police Dept. Are you interested? Visit springfieldmo.gov/341/Neighborhhood-Watch for more information.

Brentwood enjoys first National Night Out

By Erin Gray, for SGFNN

Brentwood neighbors had a wonderful time meeting with families during National Night Out at Meador Park in August. We offered kids a make ‘n take butterfly craft and more. Photo taken by BNA board member Lisa Meeks.

New Bradford Park directory available in 2020

By Dellene Nelson, for SGFNN

It’s been two years since our last directory was printed! We are striving now to make this new directory as accurate and complete as possible. Are you a new resident? If so, have you received your New Neighbor packet? Have you had changes in your family? Do you have a new telephone number? If so, please call Janet at 417-882-1241 with your new or updated information or just give her a call to verify that your information is correct.
Ground broken for new Delaware Elementary

By SPS Communications, for SGFNN

SPS hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Delaware Elementary School Aug. 26.

In a special meeting Aug. 14, the SPS Board of Education unanimously voted to approve the construction contract for the new Delaware Elementary School to Crossland Construction Co. The approved bid totaled $15,390,000. This contract brings the total construction cost for this project to $15.9 million. Cost for demolition and abatement work in the amount of $533,463 had been approved previously.

The former Delaware school building was recently demolished, and a new school will be constructed on the same site. When complete in August 2020, the new building will accommodate up to 350 students and feature a design which addresses accessibility and security challenges. When construction is complete, the Delaware boundary will shift to accommodate 80-100 students who currently attend Sunshine Elementary. Delaware students are currently attending the former Sherwood Elementary School at Scenic Avenue and Sunshine Street.

Ahoy 2nd grade Mateys!

Join Petey in the hunt for the true TREASURE of the CITY.

5-8:30 P.M., THURSDAY, OCT. 17,
BUSCH MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Call 864-1010 or visit springfieldmo.gov for more information.
Delaware hosts ice cream social, has new polling place and forms women’s group

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Delaware hosted its annual ice cream social at Westminster Presbyterian Church July 9.

“Our family had a wonderful time at the ice cream social last night. Thank you to everyone that helped, donated and came. It was great to see our police officer, firefighters, Delaware Elementary staff, church community, and neighbors come together and just enjoy each other’s company. [This is] proof that we do live in a great neighborhood. If you never have gone to one of our social events, I urge you to come next time,” said Jill Hoener, in a post on Delaware’s Facebook group.

NEW DELAWARE WOMEN’S GROUP

There is a new Delaware neighborhood women’s group forming! Join us at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month (different location each month) for food, drink (if you want), and frivolity. Join Delaware’s Facebook group or contact Nancy Williams for locations.

NEW POLLING PLACE WHILE DELAWARE ELEMENTARY IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

According to Greene County Clerk Shane Schoeller, while Delaware Elementary is under construction, Westminster Presbyterian Church will be the neighborhood’s polling place. The next election is Nov. 5.

Doling celebrates first joint Neighborhood Night Out with Tom Watkins Neighborhood

By Christina Dicken, for SGFNN

See more pictures in the Tom Watkins Neighborhood section on page 22.
City Council approves Galloway CID

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

City Council approved a special taxing district known as a Community Improvement District (CID) at its Aug. 12 meeting.

A CID is a non-profit corporation or a separate political subdivision of the state that may be created for the purpose of issuing bonds, levying taxes, and applying special assessments to finance public improvements, public services, and blight removal within a defined area.

The proposed district is generally located along a one-mile section of South Lone Pine Avenue that extends south from a point located approximately 500 feet north of East Lacuna Street to East Republic Road. It encompasses approximately 87.74 acres of land, including Sequiota Park, the original town of Galloway, and portions of the Galloway Creek Greenway Trail. The District will be a political subdivision of the State of Missouri and have a life of 20 years.

It will be governed by a board of directors consisting of a minimum of five and a maximum of 30 directors, all of whom shall be over the age of 18 and be either a real property owner, business owner, or registered voter in the District. At least one of the directors shall be a representative of the Springfield-Greene County Park Board. The initial board named in the petition will have 15 directors:

- Jessica Pearson, property owner, 4-year term
- Amie Vandamme, property owner, 4-year term
- Dusty Emmert, property owner, 4-year term
- Rhett Smillie, property owner, 4-year term
- Kelly Oosterhuis, property owner, 4-year term
- Debra Moore, business owner, 4-year term
- Jennifer Duensing, business owner, 4-year term
- Bob Belote, Park Board representative, 2-year term
- Derek Shimeall, business owner, 2-year term
- Sam Coryell, property owner, 2-year term
- Thomas H. Hearne, business owner, 2-year term
- Richard Kennedy, property owner, 2-year term
- Dr. Jamie Kurucz, property owner, 2-year term
- Jarad Johnson, business owner, 2-year term
- Jeff Haynes, property owner, 2-year term

All successor directors will be appointed by the mayor with the consent of the City Council. The Galloway Community Improvement District will have the power to impose a sale and use tax at a maximum rate of one percent (1%) on all retail sales made within the district that are subject to taxation pursuant to state law. Such tax shall be subject to the approval of the registered voters in the District by a mail-in ballot election administered by the Greene County Clerk.

The district will use the sales and use tax revenues to fund various public improvements and services directed towards beautification, improved walkability and public safety, and marketing the district as a vibrant and unique mixed-use corridor in Springfield.

The Galloway Village Neighborhood Association will have one appointed non-voting representative on the CID board. The initial GVNA rep is Melanie Bach.

The district will use the sales and use tax revenues to fund various public improvements and services directed towards beautification, improved walkability and public safety, and marketing the District as a vibrant and unique mixed-use corridor in Springfield. These services and improvements will complement and enhance both existing and future planning and development initiatives in the district.

CID projects include but are not limited to the following:

- Renovation or new construction of public right-of-way improvements along and adjacent to South Lone Pine Avenue such as signage, lighting, street furniture, sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, and trail connections;
- Construction of additional public parking;
- Installation and maintenance of holiday lighting and decorations;
- Cleaning and maintenance of public sidewalks, alleys, and parking lots;
- Removal of trash from public sidewalk receptacles;
- Mowing and landscaping of public right of ways and District owned property;
- Additional police, safety and security services;
- Public parking enforcement; and
- Marketing and image enhancements, such as maintaining a website, publishing visitor guides and maps, and installing banners on public property.
Galloway recommendations tabled until October by Planning & Zoning Commission

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

At its Sept. 13 meeting, the Planning & Zoning Commission again did not reach the required five votes to accept the recommendations for future development in Galloway (available at springfieldmo.gov/ourgalloway). The item will be tabled until the commission’s October meeting. If the item does not reach five votes in October, it will move forward to City Council with a recommendation of denial by the commission.

At its Aug. 15 meeting, the commission voted unanimously to recommend removing the properties located on the southern corners of Lone Pine and Battlefield from the recommendations. A 4-4 vote at that meeting resulted in the item being tabled until September.

The Galloway item is anticipated to come before City Council for public hearing and possible vote in October, which is after this publication’s print deadline.

The council studied the issue at its July 23 Council Lunch Workshop. If the recommendations are approved by council, the use of conditional overlay districts will be considered with future rezoning cases in the area, including:

- Limit uses that are incompatible with the village character of the area, such as storage units, gas stations, drive-through restaurants or other drive-through businesses, car washes, cell towers and uses requiring new manufacturing zoning.
- Limit size, illumination, placement and number of signs, and prohibit digital signage in order to maintain the village aesthetic. Encourage colorful and creative signage.
- Design elements which are compatible with historic development pattern and existing structures.
- Appropriate design elements include articulation of building facades and compatible ratios of glass in windows, doors, and walls. Restrict glazing ratios to no more than 40% of exterior surface.
- Limit building height through bulk plane regulations. Exceptions to these requirements are discouraged.
- Require parking lot placement behind buildings where feasible and require attractive landscaping and tree canopy preservation.
- Limit excessive grading or rock blasting to preserve the rocky, sloped topography which defines the Galloway area, by limiting retaining walls in height and requiring a minimum distance between tiers. Staff recommends no more than 8 feet in wall height and a minimum of 6 feet between tiers for retaining walls.

City Council action on the recommendations will conclude the Our Galloway public engagement process.

500 attend Grant Beach’s Neighborhood Night Out

By Kathy Lutz, for SGFNN

The Grant Beach Neighborhood Association held its annual Neighborhood Night Out on Aug. 23 at Grant Beach Park. Approximately 500 people attend every year. This is the biggest event that Grant Beach Neighborhood Association does and is our biggest fundraising event. This year, we had two bands playing in the park, providing music all evening.

A big THANK YOU to Life 360 Fairbanks for providing the food; and to Guardians Brotherhood for preparing the food on their grills.

We had a LOT of door prizes to give out; as well as 12 raffle baskets (approximate value of $80 to $200) and our wonderful live auction.

We had approximately 25-plus exhibitors and vendors; as well as our own tie-dyeing t-shirts, games and other activities.

Many people visited the Railroad Historical Museum, located in the southeast corner of Grant Beach Park. The museum is free and is open 2-4 p.m. on Saturdays.

We are blessed to have a great group of people who volunteered.

Our biggest THANK YOU, however goes to our National Night Out Chair, Kevin Carter, who has spent months working on and preparing for National Night Out. He does an awesome job of getting donations and exhibitors each year.

We strive each year to make our National Night Out bigger and better than the year before and we will continue to do so.

A very big THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered, donated, exhibited and/or participated in any way. We could not do this event without all of you.

Grant Beach Neighborhood Fall Cleanup

Oct. 12: 8 a.m.– Noon

Central Assembly Parking Lot, 1301 N. Boonville Ave.

Pauletta Dunn (417-880-2453)
Greater Parkcrest holds school supply donation drive in August, looks forward to chili supper

By Judy Wyrick, for SGFNN

Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Association members held a successful drive for backpacks and school supplies in August for Horace Mann students. Thanks to Parkcrest Dental Group for their donations!

CHILI SUPPER

We hope Greater Parkcrest neighbors will join us Oct. 17 for a chili supper fundraiser and membership meeting. The event will begin at 6 p.m. at The Way Church, on the corner of Broadway and Katella. The net proceeds from the supper will be donated to the Horace Mann Cents of Pride project we call the “Mann Market.” Mann Market operates the last Tuesday of each month at The Way Church and is run by church and GPNA volunteers. Each class, along with their teacher makes the journey across the school yard to the market, where they get to spend the “bucks” they have earned that month. Attendance, respect, and caring for others are a few of the qualifiers to earn the bucks.

Primrose Street Widening Project nearing completion

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

As construction along Primrose Street near Kickapoo High School continues into the fall, City of Springfield Public Works says the project’s conclusion is in sight and thanks the community for their cooperation.

“By the end of October, the project will be nearing the end with all pavement completed,” explains project manager Andrew Flippin. “We planned for a six-month project with a target wrap-up date in November. Thanks to the contractor and the school system, we’ve stuck to the schedule.”

“Our ultimate goal is to relieve traffic congestion along Primrose with the completion of this project.” – Andrew Flippin

A complicated project from the start, Public Works continually coordinated with contractor Hartman & Company and Springfield Public Schools to make adjustments to the work zone to keep the area safe and ease potential traffic backups onto other roadways.

The project involves the widening of Primrose Street to five lanes between South Avenue and Kimbrough Avenue, including the construction of bike lanes on both sides of the roadway and Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant sidewalks. New traffic signals have been added at the intersection of Jefferson Avenue and Primrose as well as new City Utilities gas and water facilities and the installation of a sewer main to provide service to Kickapoo High School’s athletic facilities.

“Even without the construction, this area can be pretty chaotic during school opening and release times,” Flippin said. “Our ultimate goal is to relieve traffic congestion along Primrose with the completion of this project.”

Throughout construction, two-way traffic along Primrose Street has been maintained but the roadway continues to be reduced to two lanes in certain sections with no center turn lane. Various nighttime and weekend closures of Primrose are still expected as the project wraps up. Any further traffic impacts will be announced with as much notice as possible.

Students and faculty are advised to continue to access school parking lots on Primrose from the east or on Jefferson from the north. Slow down, use caution and try to avoid making left turns within the work zone.

“We know the construction schedule for this project has not been ideal and we apologize for the inconvenience,” says Flippin. “On behalf of Public Works, I want to thank the Kickapoo principal and school administration who worked with us on this project. Thanks, also, to the students, parents and teachers for their patience and flexibility. We’re very excited to have the final piece to the Primrose corridor completed. We hope the public will be pleased with the improvements.”
Heart of the Westside elects new officers

By Glenn Gohr, for SGFNN

As always, the Heart of the Westside has a busy schedule. Annual membership is $5 and T-shirts are available for purchase.

Tuesday, July 9 was the yearly neighborhood board election and bylaws review. New and returning Heart of the Westside officers include: Cody Parsons, president; Mike Bauer, vice president; Anna Pageler, secretary-treasurer; and Glenn Gohr, social media coordinator.

Students and families from York and Bissett elementary schools were invited to the Westside Community Back2School Bash at Nichols Park on Saturday July 20, which was hosted by Passion Church with the help of other volunteers. There were games and inflatables. Everyone enjoyed hot dogs, chips and drinks. Students and their families were given information for obtaining backpacks and school supplies. Lots of canned foods and produce were also given out.

Heart of the Westside manned a booth at Meador Park for National Night Out on Tuesday Aug. 6. We passed out literature, hosted a maze game and gave out a few prizes in a drawing. There was a good turnout.

A neighborhood cleanup was held at Nichols Park Saturday, Sept. 21. This included dumpsters in the park and curbside pickup was available if needed.

Walkability improvements will continue next year along Division Street in the Heart of the Westside neighborhood with a new stretch of sidewalk connecting pedestrians to Kansas Expressway.

The new sidewalk, stretching from West Avenue to Kansas Expressway, is currently in the design phase with construction anticipated in spring 2020. This project will connect to sidewalk at West Avenue completed in 2017 as part of the City’s Zone Blitz initiative.

The project will include a new 5-foot-wide sidewalk on the south side of Division Street with new curb and gutter and stormwater drainage improvements. The project, a cost-share with City Utilities, will also make improvements to current bus stop locations.

The total cost for the project is estimated at $600,000, with the City’s portion totaling approximately $193,000 provided through the ¼-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax.
AUTUMN CLEANUP

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES EDITION

STORM WATER
The Stormwater division monitors storm drains, erosion and runoff to help protect the quality of our streams and lakes.
STORMWATER QUALITY (417) 864.1996
springfieldmo.gov/stormwater
yardethic.com

WASTE WATER
The Wastewater division manages the collection and treatment of the waste in water we flush and pour down the drain.
SEWER EMERGENCIES & ISSUES (417) 864.1010
AFTER HOURS SEWER EMERGENCY (417) 864.1923
springfieldmo.gov/wastewater

SOLID WASTE
The Solid Waste division integrates various programs and services to help manage and reduce Springfield’s waste stream.
RECYCLING HOTLINE (417) 864.1904
springfieldmo.gov/solidwaste

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN
PAGE 2

NO STINK IN THE SINK
PAGE 4

A PLACE FOR YARDWASTE
PAGE 3

The Department of Environmental Services protects the natural resources and public health of our City and region for current and future generations by providing effective and efficient integrated management of stormwater, wastewater and solid waste utilities through the use of technology, innovation, passion and hard work.

Brought to you by your friends at the Department of Environmental Services
ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN

What flows down our streets and parking lots ends up in our streams.
Practicing responsible water stewardship helps to minimize and reduce the number of pollutants that enter our waterways through the groundwater and our storm drains. This is important because the water that goes into our storm drains is not sent to a treatment plant to be filtered, cleaned or treated. Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/stormwater

Fall garden upkeep
Despite spring being the season of gardening and yard work, many professionals agree that fall is as important, if not more important because many plants and trees respond more positively during this time of the year.
Fall is a great time to mulch. Not only does it help to retain moisture, accommodate garden-friendly critters and prevent weed growth in the autumn months, but it also helps to insulate and protect your garden plants from the oncoming cold.
It is tempting to trim back and cut down natives and perennials. However, you should refrain! The best time for this is in the late winter months after the plants have gone dormant. Waiting until February or early spring is a great time to trim back to keep the roots safe and provide extra food and habitat for wildlife.

Planting Trees in the Fall
September through November is the prime time for planting trees. When planted in the fall, trees are allowed an opportunity for roots to grow and become established well before a winter freeze, avoiding the hot arid summer months that could make growth difficult for newly planted trees.

Rain down the Storm Drain; Not Leaves
Don’t rake, sweep or blow leaves, grass clippings or yard debris into the street or storm drain. This practice is discouraged due to the problems it causes to our water quality and stormwater drainage system.
In fact, this is a violation of City Code Section 96-27.
Even though yardwaste is organic, it adds nutrients to streams that contribute to algae growth. Not only that, it degrades the water quality of the streams the drains flow to and can even clog storm drains - causing flooding in streets, intersections and neighborhoods.

MOMulch Product Pricing
Made from locally generated chipped and ground wood waste from limbs, sticks and brush. MOMulch is a real value and is available year-round.
MOMulch and MOPost product sales support waste management efforts and environmental education for our community.
May be purchased in bulk only at the Yardwaste Recycling Center (YRC).
Bags may be purchased at all recycling center locations.
Cash and check are the only payment forms accepted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Per Cubic Yard</th>
<th>Per Cubic Foot</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wood Mulch</td>
<td>$7</td>
<td>$3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Wood Mulch</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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No warranties or refunds are available for purchased materials.
A PLACE FOR YARDWASTE

Fall is near and soon leaves will be everywhere. Owning your own property has a lot of benefits, but the waste created while maintaining a yard is certainly not one of them. Understanding how to responsibly dispose of yardwaste - leaves, grass clippings and branches - is a vital aspect of being a good steward of the environment, your property, your neighborhood and the community’s resources.

Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/solidwaste

What, Where & Why
The landfill is not the place for yardwaste. In fact, it is a state law to not dispose of yardwaste in the trash. The Yardwaste Recycling Center (YRC) was designed for this specific purpose and need - to have a location dedicated to the disposal of yardwaste and organics.

What is Accepted
The usual suspects of limbs, sticks, leaves and grass clippings are always accepted. Beyond those, we accept debris from gardens and even fall organic decorations like cornstalks, gourds, pumpkins and hay bales (remove wire or string).

What is Not Accepted
Rootballs, rocks, lawn bags, boxes, limbs that do not match specifications (listed to the left) and trash - even if raked up with yardwaste. These are exceptions for disposal at the landfill.

Leaves and Grass Clippings
Thanks for not sweeping, raking or blowing leaves into the street or storm drain. Please bag them and bring them to any of our three recycling centers. *There is a 10 bag limit at the Lone Pine and Franklin Ave. centers.*

**PRO TIP:** Avoid the lines and eliminate multiple trips by disposing of yardwaste at the YRC.

**HATE TO WAIT:** Visit between Wednesday and Fridays for lower traffic times.

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FACILITY DETAILS

**Hours of Operation**
Open Tuesday-Saturday
SUMMER HOURS: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
FIRST TUESDAY IN APRIL UNTIL FIRST TUESDAY IN NOV.
WINTER HOURS: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
FIRST TUESDAY IN NOV. UNTIL FIRST TUESDAY IN APRIL

**Seasonal Sundays**
FALL HOURS: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
FIRST SUNDAY IN NOV. THRU FIRST SUNDAY IN DEC.

**Closed Holidays**
THANKSGIVING: Thursday, Nov. 28
CHRISTMAS DAY: Wednesday, Dec. 25

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YARDWASTE RECYCLING CENTER
3790 S. FARM RD 119

FRANKLIN AVE
731 N. FRANKLIN AVE.

LONE PINE
3020 S. LONE PINE AVE.

BE APPRECIATED AT THE YRC!
Customer Appreciation &
The Day of Smashing Pumpkins
Saturday, Nov. 2 | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
BYOP: BRING YOUR OWN PUMPKINS
NO STINK IN THE SINK

Don’t cause a pain in your drain.
It’s normal for a little food to go down the drain in the kitchen, but even if you have a garbage disposal, the sink is not an ideal place to dispose of certain substances. Rather than washing or flushing away unused goods, proper disposal is key to preventing clogged pipes, costly plumber bills and sewer infrastructure problems throughout our City. Eliminate the stink and keep food – and other things – out of your drains and pipes by following these easy tips.
Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/wastewater

THINGS THAT SHOULD NEVER GO DOWN YOUR DRAIN

Coffee Grounds
Grounds can smell good in a stinky drain, but they stick together in the pipes and can contribute to blockages. It is best to add coffee grounds to your home compost or toss into the trash.

Eggshells
It’s been said that eggshells can help sharpen disposal blades, although professional opinion suggests that this is actually more harmful than helpful. Rinse them and throw those shells in the compost or toss into the trash.

Flour
We have all cooked with flour. It is generally used as a thickening agent. When flour is put down a drain and mixes with water, it is just as gloopy and difficult to remove as it was on that whisk or spoon you used to mix up your baked goods earlier.

Dairy Products
This includes milk, yogurt, butter and even margarine. The reasoning isn’t the same for each, but they can either congeal and create blockages or, in the case of milk, create issues due to the additional oxygen necessary to break it down.

Pasta
Noodles don’t stop absorbing water and liquids once they are taken off of the stove or once the meal is eaten. Instead, they will continue to absorb liquid in the pipes, causing a sticky and stopped-up mess.

Rice
Same story as pasta! Save for leftovers or make sure it is scraped into the trash.

Produce Stickers
You wouldn’t wash normal stickers down the drain, so do not rinse these down, either. They are not water-soluble and will create issues along the sewer and in the filtration at wastewater facilities.

Bones
The occasional fish bone is fine, but you should never purposely throw bones, fish or other, in your disposal.

Fats, Oils and Grease
Ever heard of a fatberg? If you wash fats, oils and grease down your sink, then you have likely contributed to making one. Fatbergs are large solid masses in the sewer that are created from a mixture of items (including wipes) the base being fats, oils and greases. This is because these materials slow in your pipes and the sewer as they cool and congeal - collecting other materials as they pass.
It is best to collect excess from your cooking and place into a jar or can. Once full, it can be capped and thrown into the trash for disposal.

NEVER FLUSH OR WASH THESE OTHER ITEMS DOWN THE DRAIN:
Kitty litter (even the “flushable” kind), cotton swabs, paint, household cleaners, cotton balls, toothpaste tubes, feminine hygiene products, plastic wrappers, cosmetic wipes, dental floss, contact lenses, cigarette butts, chewing gum, hair, band-aids and, of course, “flushable” wipes

PROPER DISPOSAL OF MEDICATIONS AND SHARPS

Step 1
Obtain a well-rinsed detergent bottle or other chemical jug. Drop the sharp end of the object first and reseal bottle or jug. Store in a secure place until nearly full.

Step 2
When nearly full, add a mixture of one part bleach and nine parts water. Let this sit for thirty minutes.

Step 3
After the solution has sat for thirty minutes, pour into a toilet and flush to the sewer. Be sure that no sharps or solid objects pour out.

Step 4
Once emptied, reseal the jug or bottle with its lid - preventing any sharps or solids from falling out.

Step 5
Tape vertically across the cap and body of the jug. Then tape around the center to secure the lid from any potential opening.

Step 6
Once it is sealed with the lid and taped securely it may be disposed of in the trash.

Medication Disposal
We’ve seen it on TV and even been told in the past that flushing medications were an acceptable disposal method. Unfortunately, this is wrong. Medications are a pollutant to our waterways when flushed down the toilet. Instead, follow these steps:

Step 1
Collect unused or old medications.

Step 2
Place in a sealed container, such as a sandwich bag, bottle or jar. Do not crush.

Step 3
Mix in an unappealing substance, such as coffee grounds, kitty litter, dirt, etc.

Step 4
Throw into household trash.

Step 5
Scratch out or peel off any personal information on medication containers before disposal.

RECOMMENDED DISPOSAL OPPORTUNITY:
MEDICATION TAKEBACK SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 26

FOR HANDY TIPS, RESOURCES AND LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATES, FOLLOW US AT     @SGFenvironmentalservices  @SGFenvironmentalservices
Meador Park hosts first Neighbors Helping Neighbors event

By Bobbi Ream, for SGFNN

The first Neighbors Helping Neighbors event was held Sept. 14. A number of neighbors volunteered to spend part of their day helping other neighbors in Meador Park. We were able to do an act of kindness for others while at the same time getting to know some of our neighbors. Donna Clarkson and Will Carter did the planning for this event, which was intended to assist neighbors who might be in need of a little help with basic property maintenance and cleanup and was a precursor to the Sept. 28 neighborhood cleanup.

Our cleanup and all the other neighborhood cleanups are made possible by City funding, along with Community Partnership of the Ozarks’ coordination this event and the others like it all over town. The success of these events are completely dependent on the volunteers who are available to help. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make our neighborhood a better place for everyone.
New principal for Boyd Elementary

By SPS Communications, for SGFNN

Springfield Public Schools selected Dr. Angela Holloway Payne to serve as the next principal of Boyd Elementary School.

Dr. Holloway Payne’s education career includes 12 years as an elementary classroom teacher and 10 years as an elementary principal for Shelby County Schools in Memphis, Tenn. During her time with Shelby County Schools, she was recognized as Administrator of the Year by the Tennessee Education Association. She has served as the superintendent of Stafford USD 349 in Stafford, Kansas. Dr. Holloway Payne’s husband, Dr. Richard Todd Payne, is a professor at Missouri State University.

“Becoming part of the Boyd Elementary family is exciting! I look forward to learning about the rich traditions and history of our school.” – Dr. Angela Holloway Payne

Dr. Holloway Payne received a bachelor of arts in elementary education from the University of Memphis, a master of science in administration and supervision from Trevecca Nazarene University, and both an educational specialist degree and a doctorate in educational leadership from Union University.

“It is an honor to join Springfield Public Schools,” said Dr. Holloway Payne. “Becoming part of the Boyd Elementary family is exciting! I look forward to learning about the rich traditions and history of our school. It is my passion to equip faculty and staff with the skills and resources to provide our students with a safe, supportive and enriched learning environment. Building positive relationships with faculty, staff, students, parents and community members will be an important part of every day.”

“It was obvious to the selection committee that she is passionate about providing students with a personalized learning experience unique to the abilities and interests of individual students, while supporting the work of teachers and staff who are instrumental to that work,” said Dr. J Anderson, executive director of elementary learning for Springfield Public Schools.

Midtown back to school party Aug. 23

Provided by the Midtown Neighborhood Association

Everyone from the Midtown neighborhood and Boyd Elementary community was invited to celebrate a new school year and support student success at Boyd Elementary on Aug. 23.

The 24th annual cookout at Washington Park had free hot dogs, bratwurst, hamburgers, baked beans, chips, cookies, watermelon, soft drinks and water along with children’s activities, face painting, games and two inflatables! A DJ was crankin’ out fun music, Springfield Little Theatre’s Teen Players performed and were available for pictures with the kids! A fire truck from the Springfield Fire Department and representatives from neighborhood after-school and community programs were also on hand.

We are also celebrating 24 years of the enhanced partnership between Boyd and Drury University, 20 years of the Culture Club after-school program at Central Christian Church and 14 years of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program!

The event was sponsored by Midtown Neighborhood Association, Central Christian Church, Drury University, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Boyd PTA, Air Services heating & Cooling, City of Springfield Fire and Police Departments, Springfield-Greene County Park Board and the City of Springfield.
Oak Grove Neighborhood Association to host guest speaker Cheryl Clay at October meeting

By Gerald Clary, for SGFNN

Former NAACP Springfield President Cheryl Clay will speak about diversity and inclusion at the Oct. 29 Oak Grove Neighborhood Association meeting. The meeting will start at 6 p.m. and will be held at the Oak Grove Community Center at 1338 S. Oak Grove Ave.

Clay is a Springfield native and returned to Springfield after being gone for several years. She serves on the Public Housing Authority for Springfield, as the secretary for the Missouri chapter of NAACP, on the boards of directors for Lincoln Memorial Cemetery, Springfield Community Center and Bartley Decatur Neighborhood Center.

Her passion in life is her commitment to social justice specifically regarding children and those who are not represented with voices in our positions of power. Cheryl is also the founder and executive director of the Be A Jewel Fund, a non-profit focusing on grandparents raising grandchildren also known as Grand Families.

We hope you’ll join us!

SGF Yields program installs “Student Walker” statue at Pittman Elementary

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The City of Springfield’s SGF Yields pedestrian safety program installed the first of five “Student Walker” statues Aug. 15 at Pittman Elementary School.

The new installation includes the recognizable Mr. Walker statue along with a new child-sized silhouette. The pair is meant to encourage school children to identify with the message of pedestrian safety and highlight the important role adults play in keeping children safe.

Funded through a Blueprint for Safer Roadways grant through the Missouri Department of Transportation, the new statues have been installed at Horace Mann, Williams, Bingham, Pittman and McGregor Elementary schools.

“These five elementary schools were selected based on multiple factors,” says Traffic Safety Professional Mandy Buettgen-Quinn. “Our goal was to choose an elementary school from each high school feeder system, but we also considered the type of streets near the school, proximity of the school entrance to the road and number of students walking. We also reached out to schools to gauge their interest in bringing traffic safety to their students.”

In addition to the statues, SGF Yields is working with the selected schools to provide in-classroom presentations and curriculum to help students, teachers and parents connect with the statues and learn more about how to stay safe traveling to and from school.

For more information about SGF Yields, visit springfieldmo.gov/SGFYields.
The Springfield Art Museum announced an expansive outdoor sculpture installation with Kansas City artist Shawn Bitters, in collaboration with the Springfield-Greene County Park Board. Burn Out, which was recently featured in Open Spaces Kansas City, was installed on the Museum’s grounds and throughout nearby Phelps Grove Park on July 17 and will remain on view for one year. Bitters was a featured artist in the Museum’s 2018 4×4: Midwest Invitational Exhibition.

The 23 screen-printed aluminum “stones” in Burn Out form a narrative; each rock is encoded, representing a letter, that when joined together, tell a story. The stones can be “read” by moving through the landscape. The title of the work references the “necessary destruction” of fire in certain landscapes such as the prairies of the Midwest. The shape of the stones is based on volcanic bombs—masses of molten rock that form when a volcano erupts.

Bitters’ work is concerned with environmentalism, the use of language, and personifying Earth’s geologic structures. In other words, he seeks to give the Earth a voice and reveal what the Earth would say to us if it could speak. Curator of Art Sarah Buhr, who selected Bitters to represent Kansas in the 4×4 exhibition, knew she was interested in working with him again on a larger scale. "This work is important because Shawn is a regional artist engaging with our landscape and the realities of local climate change and weather extremes," said Buhr.

Museum Director Nick Nelson notes, “We are excited to partner with Phelps Grove Park on this project as a way to link the museum space with our surrounding environs through art. This is step toward the ideas laid out in our 30 Year Master Plan. We want the public to start viewing the museum and its surrounding amenities as one recreational campus with multiple experiences.”

Joining public art and outdoor recreation is also important to the Springfield-Greene County Park Board. “We are thrilled to partner with the Springfield Art Museum on this exciting installation,” said Bob Belote, director of parks. “We look for this collaboration to be the first of many that we share with the Art Museum at Phelps Grove and possibly other locations.” The museum and the Park Board would like to extend thanks to Shawn Bitters for his collaboration on this project.

The installation begins at the museum’s amphitheater and moves west and north through Phelps Grove Park. Visitors with a QR reader on their mobile device can access the artist’s decryption key by scanning exhibit signage. Printed copies are available in the museum’s lobby. Guided walking tours of the installation and an Artist Talk will be scheduled later this fall. (See this event on page 28 for the guided walking tours schedule.) The Springfield Art Museum is located at 1111 E. Brookside Dr. Admission is always free. Donations are gratefully accepted.
Making Sense of Money
Basic Budgeting Series

FREE interactive class to learn how to manage your money, instead of money managing you!

Attend neighborhood association meetings to learn more about what’s going on in your area, neighborhood projects, programs offered, and more!

Want to submit an article about your neighborhood? Let your neighborhood president or other representative know!

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!
Contact us at 417-888-2020 ext. 143 or visit cpozarks.org/financial-literacy

Saturdays: Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23
10-11:30 a.m.
Pathways United Methodist Church, 1232 E. Dale St.

You will be eligible for a $100 Savings Match!

ROBBERSON NEIGHBORHOOD

Connect
- Michael Blackshear, President: pathwayspastor@gmail.com or 417-631-7595
- Betty Green, Vice President
- Phyllis Evans, Treasurer
- Roxanne Bedell-Taylor, Special Events and Fundraising Chairman

Neighborhood Association Meetings
Oct. 24 • Dec. 26: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
@ Pathways United Methodist Church (1232 E. Dale St.)
Robberson Elementary School
1100 E. Kearney St.

ROUNTREE NEIGHBORHOOD

Connect
- Laurel Bryant, President: laurelbryant@gmail.com or 417-619-4663
- Sue Ekstam, Vice President
- Mike Brothers, Secretary
- Peggy Wise, Treasurer

Neighborhood Association Meetings
Oct. 15 • Nov. 19 • Dec. 17: 7–8 p.m.
@ University Heights Baptist Church (1010 S. National Ave.)
rountreenews.org

Rountree fifth-graders create 1,000 paper cranes for Japanese Fall Festival

By SPS Communications, for SGFNN

Rountree Elementary School fifth-graders have studied the book Sadako and the Thousand Cranes. The annual tradition at the elementary school shares the story of the life of Sadako Sasaki, who was a victim of the bombing of Hiroshima. After Sadako was diagnosed with leukemia, the author spent her time making paper cranes to represent peace in the world. Every year in Japan, Peace Day is celebrated on Aug. 5 in Hiroshima Memorial Park. On this day, hundreds of children flock to a statue erected in Sadako’s honor and place garlands of paper cranes. There, the crane remains a symbol of peace.

Rountree fifth-graders continued this tradition by creating and displaying close to 1,000 paper cranes at the annual Japanese Fall Festival at Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden inside of Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park in September.

Congratulations
Rountree Resident
CALIE HOLDEN
on being appointed to the Art Museum Board

The Art Museum Board has charge of and operates the City Art Museum for the promotion of aesthetic or artistic education. Interested in serving on a board or commission? Visit springfieldmo.gov/boards.
Forward SGF is the City of Springfield’s comprehensive planning process. Find out how you can help plan the future of Springfield by visiting ForwardSGF.com.

Congratulations
TOM PRATER
on being selected as the chair for Forward SGF Advisory Team

Congratulations
LAUREL BRYANT
on being selected for the Forward SGF Advisory Team

Tom Watkins celebrates first joint Neighborhood Night Out with Doling Neighborhood

By Christina Dicken, for SGFNN

TOM WATKINS
NEIGHBORHOOD

Connect
- Marti Mowery, President: twna2010@yahoo.com or 417-616-4064 or 417-864-7239
- Lynn Prince, Vice President
- Wanda Plumb, Secretary
- Don Atwood, Treasurer: dla913@yahoo.com or 417-864-7239

Neighborhood Association Meetings
Nov. 28 • Jan. 30: 7–8:30 p.m. @ Tom Watkins Park Community Center (2100 W. High St.)

Williams Elementary School
2205 W. Kearney St.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
NEIGHBORHOOD

SPS breaks ground for Sunshine Elementary renovation and addition

By SPS Communications, for SGFNN

The Springfield school board approved a contract for renovation and construction related to the Sunshine Elementary School project during its Aug. 20 meeting. Bids were received from five contractors. The contract was awarded to Carson-Mitchell Inc., which was the lowest bidder at $11,089,600, slightly less than the original construction cost estimate of $11,571,000. SPS hosted a groundbreaking ceremony Aug. 29.

When completed in August 2020, the school will serve up to 350 students and will address accessibility and security challenges as well as providing a safe room.

The new construction for the expansion of Sunshine Elementary will occur while students are onsite in the current building. Renovation of the current Sunshine facility will be scheduled during student breaks (spring, winter and summer breaks).
University Heights celebrates reorganization with first membership event in August

By Jan Peterson, for SGFNN

More than 40 neighbors came together in August to celebrate the reorganization of University Heights Neighborhood Association at its first annual membership meeting.

Rather than conducting business, the potluck event was aimed at creating stronger connections within the neighborhood, outlining the benefits of joining and celebrating the milestone with loads of food.

The afternoon event — held at the Springfield Art Museum — drew many longtime residents along with some who were still in the process of getting settled in new homes. About a dozen new memberships were recorded, which is impressive as it brought membership up to about 60 people.

Highlights included welcoming the board’s new secretary, Annette Hollon, and guests Springfield Fire Department Division Chief Kevin Trogdon and Zone 3 City Councilman Mike Schilling, who represents University Heights between Kimbrough and Campbell avenues.

Moving forward, UHNA members are enthusiastic about participating in November’s Bass Pro Shops Neighborhood Challenge, a spring cleanup event to be held in conjunction with our neighbors in Phelps Grove and exploring new ways to celebrate the neighborhood’s unique historic character.

The Sunshine attendance boundary will be adjusted, upon completion of construction, resulting in:

- Moving the entire Portland Elementary population to the Sunshine location (effective 2020-2021 school year).
- Moving 80-100 current Sunshine students to the new Delaware facility (effective 2020-2021 school year).


to minimize disruption to learning.

The Sunshine attendance boundary will be adjusted, upon completion of construction, resulting in:

- Moving the entire Portland Elementary population to the Sunshine location (effective 2020-2021 school year).
- Moving 80-100 current Sunshine students to the new Delaware facility (effective 2020-2021 school year).

Weller enjoys Neighborhood Night Out Aug. 23

Photos courtesy of the Weller Neighborhood Association Facebook page
9th annual Birthplace of Route 66 Festival shatters records

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The numbers are in from the 2019 Birthplace of Route 66 Festival, and the City and festival partners want to sincerely thank all of the West Central Neighborhood Alliance neighbors and volunteers who contributed to its success.

Sixty-five thousand people attended the festival over its two days this year, up from 56,000 in 2018.

THE 2019 FESTIVAL BY THE NUMBERS:

- 642 car show registrants
- 699 cars/trucks/floats in the parade
- 22,000 parade spectators
- 2,500 attendees at the new Women’s World event at the Shrine Mosque
- 5,500 concert goers at the Aaron Sachs stage in Motorcycle Village.

The Mother Roadster Foundation, which raffles off an antique car each year at the festival starting in 2018, donated more than $40,000 to Shriners Hospitals for Children this year and awarded the 2019 Mother Roadster to Greg Fuller of Rolla.

Steve Davenport of Yellville, Arkansas won the 2019 Chevy Corvette, valued at $66,000 and donated by Chevy Dealers of the Ozarks.

This year’s recipients of the John T. Woodruff Award, presented to individuals who have shown outstanding support and interest in historic Route 66, were Guy Mace, owner of the Route 66 Car Museum, and Kirk Wheeler, owner of Mother Road Motorcycles.

“We were thrilled with the turnout at the festival this year and are already planning for how to make the 10th annual festival next year even better,” said PIO Director Cora Scott.

The 10th annual Birthplace of Route 66 Festival is set for Aug. 7-8, 2020.
Couple restoring Rockwood Motor Court on historic Route 66

By Joe Roberds, for SGFNN

During August’s Birthplace of Route 66 Festival, our own west section of Route 66 had an important event. An open house was held at Rockwood Motor Court to showcase the renovation project of this historic landmark. Phyllis Ferguson and her husband Tim hosted the event to show the restoration progress and talk of their plans for the motor court.

Rockwood Motor Court, located at 2204 W. College St., was built in 1929 to provide lodging to those traveling Route 66. Recently the rooms were monthly rentals, but with the renovations, they will be available for nightly rental to once again accommodate Route 66 travelers who want a nostalgic and unique place to stay.

Ferguson explained that Rockwood Motor Courts will have nine units when completed. Seven of the units are planned to be available for tourists this fall. Each unit will have a different theme to celebrate Route 66 with antique furniture and memorabilia. The exterior of each cabin has been revealed to show the original rock wall exterior and the craftsmanship needed to build the cabins.

This project is great for the Westside neighborhood and helps the people who live here by bringing recognition and attention to an often forgotten section of Route 66.

Westside neighbors look forward to completion of this great project and we should support all new businesses opening in our neighborhood, in addition to supporting our existing businesses. Bigfoot Subs, Route 66 Car Museum and numerous other businesses are jewels of west Springfield. Tim and Phyllis, along with many others have made the decision to restore or repurpose older buildings and invest in storefronts on the west side.

This trend is making the west side Route 66 corridor a destination rather than a pass-through area. Support our west side businesses and let them know that you appreciate their presence.

Mt. Vernon Bridge Replacement Project nearing completion

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Following a long summer of construction, and plenty of rain, Mt. Vernon Street west of Kansas Expressway is close to reopening to traffic as the bridge replacement project nears completion.

“We are expecting to reopen Mt. Vernon street by early October, with the rest of the project wrapping up closer to November,” says Public Works project manager Andrew Flippin.

After work to the roadway is complete, crews still have the creek to contend with. Final stormwater improvements include the construction of a retaining wall and grading work to help provide bank stabilization and increase the capacity of the creek.

“With as much rain as Springfield has received this summer, work in the creek has been difficult,” explains Flippin. “Due to the flash flooding characteristics of Jordan Creek, anytime it rains the water rises a significant amount and causes delays.”

Along with improvements to the creek bed, the completed project will provide a new bridge structure, add sidewalks compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and connect the existing multi-use trail to Mount Vernon Street.

The cost of the project is approximately $1.5 million, partially funded through a federal On-System Bridge Program with the remaining portion funded through reimbursement funds from the Missouri Department of Transportation received from a previous project. The contractor for the project is Hartman & Company, Inc.
Westside couple’s yard certified
Gold by Yard Ethic program
By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Jerry and Sandi Huston have lived in their home in the Westside Neighborhood for 20 years, enjoying the sense of community on their block and working to beautify their own little slice of the neighborhood.

An avid gardener, Sandi tends a half-acre lot with fruit trees, berries, grapes, multiple gardens and a small greenhouse.

“I enjoy gardening. I enjoy my yard,” says Sandi Huston. “I had a friend who sent me information about the Yard Ethic program through Facebook, saying, ‘This sounds like you. You should do this.’ I took a look and saw I was already halfway to being certified so I took it and ran with it.”

A partnership between the City of Springfield and James River Basin partnership (JRBP), Yard Ethic is a free certification program that encourages and rewards environmentally friendly yard care practices such as planting native plants, installing rain barrels, composting, and more.

“The Yard Ethic program centers around proper practices and connecting our community to a collection of resources and available assistance opportunities,” says Water Quality Compliance Officer Carrie Lamb. “Implementing these practices can help save residents money, beautify yards, conserve water, reduce pollution and create wildlife habitat.”

Residents can join the Yard Ethic community by visiting YardEthic.com and completing three to five practices to become certified Silver or Gold through the program. Once certified, residents can show off their commitment to the environment and spread the word about the program in their neighborhood by displaying a free Yard Ethic plaque.

The Hustons’ yard qualified for Gold Level certification through the program, requiring the completion of five check list items. Their yard features a compost pile, multiple rain barrels and an extensive tree canopy. To round out her certification, Sandi planted a 200-square-foot pollinator garden and completed soil testing through JRBP.

“Yard Ethic practices make for a healthier environment for all of us. It’s healthier for us. It’s healthier for our pets. It’s healthier for the neighborhood.” – Sandi Huston

On Aug. 17, 26 volunteers from Missouri State University’s women’s softball team joined Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, MO (HFHS) to help with the Sidewalk Sweep in Woodland Heights. Sidewalk Sweep is an event focused on neighborhood revitalization in Woodland Heights, HFHS’s partner neighborhood.

Sidewalk Sweep projects included yard cleanups, removing brush, and cutting back overhanging growth from fences. During the event volunteers and HFHS staff discovered a herringbone brick sidewalk located on Dale Street between Main and Lyon Avenues. It had been completely covered with 1-2 inches of grass, and volunteers and HFHS workers were able to uncover the sidewalk completely.

“Our team is very committed to community service,” said Associate Head Coach Beth Perine. “We’re very grateful for the opportunity that Habitat gives us to allow us to come out here and help. Our team is a team that wants more opportunities and is excited for new and different opportunities. To come out here and be a part of this neighborhood is just a great feeling for all of us.”

Neighborhood revitalization is an ongoing Habitat program that strives to improve the quality of life of a single neighborhood by working with area businesses, government, residents and other nonprofits who share a vision of revitalization. Woodland Heights’ focus areas of revitalization include beautification, community, housing, health and safety.

To learn more about the program, visit habitatspringfieldmo.org/our-programs/neighborhood-revitalization/.

Habitat for Humanity and MSU women’s softball team host Sidewalk Sweep in Woodland Heights
By Hannah Spencer, Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, for SGFNN

WOODLAND HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD

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To learn more about the program, visit habitatspringfieldmo.org/our-programs/neighborhood-revitalization/.

WOODBAND HEIGHTS

woodlandheightsneighborhood.org

Connect
- Becky Voel, President: rsvoel25@gmail.com or 417-890-4210
- Steve Sexton, Vice President: valencia001@hotmail.com or 417-693-0386
- Katie Bolt-Goeke, Secretary
- Bernadean McAfee, Treasurer

Neighborhood Association Meetings
Oct. 15 • Nov. 19 • Dec. 17: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
6 p.m. optional potluck dinner @ Woodland Heights Presbyterian Church (722 W. Atlantic St.)

Bowerman Elementary School
2148 N. Douglas Ave.

Reed Middle School
2000 N. Lyon Ave.
10th annual Habitat Home Run raises more than $16K for neighborhood revitalization projects in Woodland Heights

By Hannah Spencer, Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, for SGFNN

Habitat for Humanity of Springfield (HFHS) hosted the 10th annual Habitat Home Run: 5k, 10k, 1-mile on Saturday, Aug. 24, raising $16,705 for neighborhood revitalization efforts in Woodland Heights. Competitive runners and casual walkers of all ages woke up early and made their way over to Lafayette Park for a 7 a.m. start.

Great American Title Company served as the presenting sponsor for the fourth consecutive year, with an additional 28 sponsors supporting the event. All funds raised by the event will support future revitalization projects in the partner neighborhood.

Neighborhood Revitalization is an ongoing Habitat for Humanity of Springfield program that strives to improve the quality of life of a single neighborhood by working with area businesses, government, residents and other nonprofits who share a vision of revitalization. Woodland Heights’s focus areas of revitalization include beautification, community, housing, health and safety.

To learn more about HFHS’s Neighborhood Revitalization program, visit habitatspringfieldmo.org/our-programs/neighborhood-revitalization.

Race results
• 10k Female Winners: Lisa Wampler (47:21:46), Trina Wilcox (48:24:39), Jessica Kolde (49:28:64)

Woodland Heights neighbors cool off at July ice cream social

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Congratulations Woodland Heights Resident LINDA PASSERI on being re-appointed to the Art Museum Board

The Art Museum Board has charge of and operates the City Art Museum for the promotion of aesthetic or artistic education. Interested in serving on a board or commission? Visit springfieldmo.gov/boards.
Events
October–December 2019

EDUCATION & RESOURCES
Springfield-Greene County Library District Free Technology Classes: You can choose what you want to learn and go at your own speed with our self-paced tutorials. We provide the computer and you select from a wide variety of lessons designed specifically for individual learning. Topics include basic skills, Windows 10, Microsoft. Visit thelibrary.org, a library branch, or call 417-837-5011 for the schedule. Please note these classes are for adults.

Coffee with the Chief: Oct. 17: 8-8:30 a.m., Virtual Coffee with the Chief Facebook Live, SPD Facebook Page @SGFPolice • Nov. 20: 7-8:30 a.m., Big Momma’s Coffee & Espresso Bar, 217 E. Commercial St. • Dec. 18: 7-8:30 a.m., Panera Bread, 2535 N. Kansas Expressway. Springfield Police Chief Paul Williams hosts “Coffee with the Chief” to encourage an open discussion between the public and the chief. Anyone interested in asking questions or learning more about the Springfield Police Department is encouraged to attend.

Forward SGF Speaker Series: Mick Cornett:
  Oct. 23: 6:30-8 p.m., Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. Please join us as Mick Cornett, four-term Oklahoma City mayor and author of “The Next American City,” shares his insights on how midsize metros like Springfield are the dynamic and inventive urban centers of the future. If you cannot attend the event in person, the City will be livestreaming on Facebook at @CityofSGF and online at livestream.com/SGFCityView.

Making Sense of Money: Basic Budgeting Series:
  Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23: 10-11:30 a.m. Pathways United Methodist Church, 1232 E. Dale St. Free interactive class to learn how to manage your money instead of money managing you. You will establish a budget that works for you, develop habits to reach your financial goals, and be eligible for a $100 savings match with our partnering banks. Registration is required! Call 417-888-2020 ext. 143 or visit cpozarks.org/financial-literacy.

HEALTH & WELLNESS
Events are free unless otherwise noted.

PTA Clothing Bank: Open most Thursdays and some Saturdays from 9-11 a.m. and 2-3:30 p.m. Study Alternative Center, 2343 W. Olive St. Any student who is signed up for free or reduced lunch can shop at the PTA Clothing Bank. Please call, email or see your school nurse in person at school to request a referral to the Clothing Bank before visiting. Volunteers are always needed! See the article on page 4 for exact dates.

Tai Chi with Dee Ogilvy: 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays, Midtown Carnegie Branch Library, 397 E. Central • 5-6 p.m. Wednesdays, Mount Carmel Methodist Church, 1001 N. National • 9-10 a.m., Fridays, Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. Learn Yang Style Tai Chi from Shifu M. Dee Ogilvy. Great for adults of any age and physical fitness level, no special equipment needed, beginners welcome. Learn more at springsfieldtaichi.wordpress.com.

25th Annual Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk:
  Nov. 28: 8 a.m. Downtown Springfield. Springfield’s Thanksgiving tradition and the largest Thanksgiving Day 5K in Missouri! Turkey Trot takes place Thanksgiving morning, with four race categories: Elite, Runner, Walker/Family/Group/Stroller, and Dog. Trophies for overall winners and medals for each age group. Build up your Thanksgiving appetite while benefiting the Park Board Youth Recreation Scholarship Fund and the Development Center of the Ozarks. Bring five items or five pounds of food to donate to Ozarks Food Harvest. Register online at ParkBoard.org/TurkeyTrot. Early-bird registration by Fri. Nov. 22 (postmarked by Tues., Nov. 19): $20/adult, $15/child. Registration in person only, at Springfield Expo Center, Nov. 27-28: $30/adult, $25/child.

ARTS, CULTURE & FUN
Events are free unless otherwise noted.

First Friday Art Walk: First Friday of each month, 6-10 p.m., downtown Springfield. Art lovers “Walk the Walk” throughout the Downtown Arts District, enjoying original art, music, demonstrations and performances in gallery venues. Visit fitaw.org

Harvest Fest:
  First Friday of each month, 6-10 p.m., Sundays Noon-6 p.m. Rutledge Wilson Farm Park, 3823 W. Farm Road 146. Five weekends of fall-themed fun at the farm! Meander through the corn maze, take a hayride, pick your own pumpkin from our pumpkin patch, ride the Cow Train or Grin Train, try your luck at carnival games, bounce on inflatables and much more as you enjoy this Midwest fall tradition! Free admission, most activities have a small fee. ParkBoard.org/HarvestFest

  • Corn Maze & Pumpkin Patch Party: Fridays-Sundays through Oct. 27: Thursdays 6:30-10 p.m., Saturdays 11 a.m.-10 p.m. (closed 6-6:30 p.m.), Sundays Noon-6 p.m. Corn has never been so ear-resistible! Get lost in our corn maze (may take an hour), then pick your own pumpkin from the pumpkin patch. Pumpkin prices based on weight, Corn Maze: $4/adults, $3/kids 5-11 yrs., kids 4 and under free.

  • Haunted Trail: Fridays and Saturdays through Oct. 26: 6:30-10 p.m. Do you dare enter the woods after dark? Walk our one-third mile paved path on the Haunted Trail for a frighteningly awesome experience. Includes hayride and bonfire time. Ages: 8 yrs.-adult. Kids 8-12 must be with an adult. No kids under 8 admitted. Fee: $7/person.

  • Halloween Fest: Oct. 26: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Celebrate the season with Halloween-themed activities at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. Wear a costume and join in the family scavenger hunt, games and crafts in the classroom. Everyone is a winner, with prizes and candy at each activity. The Pumpkin Patch, Corn Maze and hayride are open for an additional fee. (Hayride may be canceled in rain, but all other activities will proceed.) Free, some activities have a small fee.

Shawn Bitters: Burn Out Walking Tours:
  Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Nov. 5, 12, 19; Dec. 3, 10, 17: 2400 S. Scenic Ave. Mark the end of the season with tram tours. Free.


Gigs in the Garden Concert Series:

  • Oct. 6: The Singer and the Songwriter
  • Oct. 13: Springfield Community Jazz Ensemble
  • Oct. 20: Claude Bourbon
  • Oct. 27: The Lacewings

Inktoberfest:
  Oct. 13: 1:30-4:30 p.m., Schweitzer Brentwood Branch Library, 2214 S. Brentwood Blvd. In honor of Inktober, resident artist Tori Hererra will guide participants in a variety of pencil and ink drawing techniques using the official Inktober drawing prompts. Challenge yourself to complete one or all of the prompts during this session. Materials will be provided.

History of Ozarks Literature:
  Oct. 13: 2 p.m., Library Station, 2535 N. Kansas Expo. For adults in the Santa Fe Room. Dr. Phillip Howerton, professor of English at Missouri State University-West Plains, will present a survey of two centuries including the role of stereotypes and traditional regional traits. He will explore several prevalent themes in Ozarks literature to highlight connections with the region’s history and the larger body of American literature.

Art in Our City Zone 4:
  Closes Oct. 20, Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. This exhibition highlights and celebrates the creativity of our community focusing on artists living and working in the many neighborhoods that make up our city. Art In Our City not only concentrates on the neighborhoods in City Council Zone 4.

Art Talk: David Burt:
  Oct. 24: 6:30-7:30 p.m., Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. Please join the Friends of the Springfield Art Museum (FOSAM) and the Studio 55 Fine Arts Guild as they present “Seeing With the Imagination,” featuring David Burt. This event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited, reservations to Sandra Graves Letson, 417-496-1838 or sandragraves@mcshi.com.

Trick Art Treat:
  Oct. 26: 10 a.m.-Noon, Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. Join us for a morning of family Halloween themed art projects, games, pumpkin decorating, spooky stories, and a costume contest! This drop-in event is free and fun for all ages. All activities associated with Trick Art Treat are free. BOO! (Costumes encouraged but not required). Please note that this is an arts and crafts event with a Halloween theme, there will be no candy exchange.

Last Garden Hoorah:
  Oct. 26: 3-6 p.m., movie begins at 6:30 p.m., Springfield Botanical Gardens, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. Mark the end of the season with a variety of garden tours, programs and activities. Includes carnivorous plants, bats, bulb planting and more. Event is followed by a free 6:30 p.m. screening of “Hotel Transylvania 3” at the Peace Through People Pavilion. This is also the last weekend of the season for the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden season and tram tours. Free.
Truck or Treat: Oct. 29: 4:30-6:30 p.m., Ewing Park, 1400 S. Scenic (across from Fire Station 8). The Springfield Fire Department and the Park Board partner for a free Halloween event with costumes, candy, firefighters and fire trucks!

Yard waste Recycling Center Customer Appreciation Day: Nov. 2: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Yard waste Recycling Center, 3790 S. Farm Road 119 (Brookline). Enjoy refreshments and bring your pumpkins to smash!

Bass Pro Marathon & Neighborhood Cheering Challenge: Nov. 3: 7-11 a.m.

Youth Try Hockey for Free: Nov. 9: 1-2 p.m., Jordan Valley Ice Park, 635 E. Trafficway. Learn the fundamentals of hockey skating and drills during this one-hour class. Register beginning Oct. 16 at tryhockeyforfree.com, or register onsite Nov. 9 at noon. Ages 4-9 yrs.

Ubuhe Women: Beadwork and the Art of Independence: Closes Nov. 10, Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. This traveling exhibition presents a spectacular overview of a new form of bead art, the ndwango (“cloth,”) developed by a community of women living and working in rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Ubuhe Women: Beadwork and the Art of Independence was developed by the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum, Washington, D.C. in cooperation with Curators Bev Gibson, Ubuhe Beads, and James Green, and is organized for tour by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C.

Veteran’s Appreciation Day: Nov. 11: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Dickerson Park Zoo, 1401 W. Norton Rd. Free Zoo admission for military veterans with ID, and their immediate family.

Art Talk: Dr. Janet Jordan: Nov. 14: 6:30-7:30 p.m., Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. Please join the Friends of the Springfield Art Museum (FOSAM) and the Studio 55 Fine Arts Guild as they present an Art Talk featuring the sculptural works of Dr. Janet Jordan. This event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited, reservations to Sandra Graves Letson, 417-496-1838 or sandragraves@mchsi.com.

EnviroFlick: Just Eat It: Nov. 14: 7 p.m., Moxie Cinema, 305 S. Campbell Ave, Suite 101. Just Eat It is an engaging and award winning documentary that was hand selected by Environmental Services staff as a vehicle for community discussion and education centered around food waste and food rescue. After the screening, we invite everyone to stay and participate in a community panel led by several local influential individuals.

Customer Appreciation America Recycles Day: Nov. 13: 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Franklin Avenue and Lone Pine Recycling Centers, 731 N. Franklin Ave. and 3020 S. Lone Pine Ave. Help us celebrate you! Sweets, Treats and Giveaways.

Festival of Lights: Nov. 23-Jan. 1: ongoing, lights run 5:30-11 p.m., Downtown Springfield. A flurry of downtown events including carriage rides, holiday shows and concerts, free ice skating, the Downtown Springfield Christmas Parade and, of course, festive lights. Check out the displays at Park Central Square, opening Nov. 23 with the Mayor’s Tree Lighting Ceremony, and at Jordan Valley Park, where light shows are programmed to music for an enchanting stroll. Details and schedules at itsalldowntown.com. Check free ice skating dates at ParkBoard.org/IcePark.

Mayor’s Tree Lighting Ceremony: Nov. 23, Show begins at 6:30 p.m., Tree Lighting at 7:30 p.m. Park Central Square. Join Mayor Ken McClure as he lights the Downtown Christmas Tree and kicks off the holiday season.

Downtown Christmas Parade: Dec. 14: 2 p.m.

Gardens Aglow: Thurs.-Sat., Nov. 28-Dec. 28: 5-8:30 p.m. Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. Enjoy a serene evening stroll through the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden, sparkling with festival lights! Campfires and hot cocoa available to keep you warm. Limited wheelchairs available. Fee $5/adult; FOG and SCAA members and children 12 yrs. and under free.

Anders Zorn: Etchings: Nov. 30-March 15, 2020, Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. Anders Zorn (1860-1920) was a Swedish artist known for his skills as a sculptor, printmaker and portraitist including three American presidents—Grover Cleveland, William Howard Taft and Theodore Roosevelt. This exhibition presents all 93 of Zorn’s etchings from the museum’s permanent collection, gifted to the museum in 1970 by the late Arthur E. Anderson.

Holiday Train Garden Display: Dec. 1-31: Mon-Sat., 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. The magic of miniature landscapes and moving model trains transforms the Botanical Center atrium into a holiday wonderland. Presented by the Ozarks Garden Railway Society. Donations accepted. Free admission.

Candy Cane Lane: Fri.-Sun., Dec. 6-22: 5-8 p.m., Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, 3825 W. Farm Road 146. Drive through the farm and enjoy dazzling farm-themed holiday displays and more than 10,000 lights. Hot cocoa available for purchase. Friday-Sunday nights only. Fee: $5/vehicle.


Men’s Chorus of the Ozarks Concert: Songs for the Season: Nov. 7: 7 p.m., Nov. 8: 2 p.m. Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. The Men’s Chorus of the Ozarks perform holiday selections representing several traditions through men’s choral music.

Randy Bacon: The Road I Call Home: Through Feb. 23, 2019, Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. Randy Bacon is an American photographer based in Springfield. This exhibit features simple, direct, emotive, casual studio portraits of homeless individuals accompanied by personal narratives. These portraits emphasize the beauty, humanity, identity and integrity of each subject while raising public awareness of our homeless community.

• Artist Talk: Nov. 7: 6:30-7:30 p.m., Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. Please join us for an artist talk with Randy Bacon about his current special exhibition, “The Road I Call Home.”

JOBS & CAREERS

The Missouri Job Center offers free one-on-one job counseling services, resume assistance and several workshops and training classes at their locations at 2900 E. Sunshine and 1443 N. Robberson, and via the mobile career center bus. Visit them in person or online at springfieldmo.gov/jobcenter to view the schedule or call 417-887-4343 for more information.

BY NEIGHBORHOOD

BISSETT

Bissett Neighborhood Association Meetings: Nov. 12: 6:30-7:30 p.m./6 p.m. optional potluck, Bissett Elementary School, 3014 W. Calhoun. We’ll be soliciting ideas for our 2020 list of activities and will also hold 2020 officer and board elections.

Bissett Neighborhood Association Christmas Dinner: Dec. 10: 6:30-7:30 p.m., Faith Assembly of God, 3001 W. Division St.

BRADFORD PARK

Bradford Park Neighborhood Association Meetings: Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17: 6:30 p.m., Immaculate Conception Church, 3555 S. Fremont.

BRENTWOOD

Brentwood Neighborhood Association Meetings: Meeting schedule varies. Please check the website or contact an officer for meeting dates, times and locations.

Spooktrunkular: Oct. 27: 5-6 p.m., Unity of Springfield, 2214 E. Seminole St.

DELAWARE

Delaware Neighborhood Association Meetings: Nov. 5, Jan. 7: 7-8 p.m., optional dinner starts at 6:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1551 E. Portland.

Delaware Women's Group: Second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Different location each month. Contact Nancy Williams or visit the Delaware Neighborhood Association Facebook group to find out the location and RSVP so we can have space saved for us. Come for food, drink (if you want) and frivolity.

Delaware Neighborhood Fall Cleanup: Nov. 9: 8 a.m.-Noon, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1551 E. Portland. The City and the neighborhood association encourages residents to take advantage of this convenient opportunity to dispose of trash, brush, leaves and metal. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply. To schedule a pickup contact Nancy Williams at 417-496-2187.

DOLING

Doling Neighborhood Association Meetings: Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 18, Jan. 14: 6:45-8 p.m., optional potluck starts at 6 p.m., Hillcrest Presbyterian Church, 818 E. Norton Rd.

Cruise Kearney: Oct. 12: 6-10 p.m. Kearney Street from Kansas Expressway to Glenstone. Come out, cruise, hang out with other automotive enthusiasts and just generally have a good time. You will see a wide variety of vehicles and many classics that you won’t want to miss.

Car Show, Hot Wheels and Diecast Swap & Shop: Oct. 13, 1-4 p.m. Doling Park Museum, 301 E. Talmage St. Enjoy games and activities.

Giboney Cave Tour: Oct. 19: 1, 2 & 3 p.m. (Tunnel Giboney Cave Tour only at 3 p.m.) Doling Park, 2600 N. Robberson Ave. Explore the myths, facts, and history of Giboney Cave. Shoes get muddy on Walking Tours, and cavers get very muddy and wet on Tunnel Tours. Bring a headlamp or flashlight, or use one of ours. Date subject to weather and bat activity. Register by Oct. 18 at ParkBoard.org/Outdoor. Ages 5 yrs. and up (5-17 yrs. with an adult). Walking Tour: $5/Person, $16/Family of 4; Tunnel Tour: $7/ Person, $24/Family of 4.
GALLOWAY VILLAGE
Galloway Village Neighborhood Association Meetings: Oct. 15: 6:30 p.m., Galloway Baptist Church, 2816 E. Republic Rd. Meetings are quarterly. Special meetings may be called as needed.

Walk and Talk Book Club: Every other Tuesday: 10 a.m., Sequiota Park, 3500 S. Lone Pine Ave. For adults. Let’s book it! Meet at the pavilion for a 45-minute walk along Galloway Creek Greenway. Talk about what you’re reading and hear from others.

Galloway Creek Stream Cleanup: Oct. 19: 10 a.m., Sequiota Park, 3500 S. Lone Pine Ave.

GRANT BEACH
Grant Beach Neighborhood Association Meetings: Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 16: 6:30-7:30 p.m./ 6 p.m. optional potluck, St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Hall, 1115 N. Campbell Ave.

Grant Beach Neighborhood Fall Cleanup: Oct. 12: 8 a.m.-Noon, Central Assembly Parking Lot, 1445 N. Boonville Ave. The City and the neighborhood association encourages residents to take advantage of this free and convenient opportunity to dispose of TVs, trash, brush and metal. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply. For more information, and to arrange a curbside pickup, please contact Paulette Dunn at 417-880-2453.

Grant Beach Produce Distribution: 2:30 p.m. Thursdays, The Fairbanks, 1126 N. Broadway Ave. Free produce delivered by Ozarks Food Harvest and distributed at The Fairbanks every Thursday. Participants are required to join Springfield Community Gardens for $5 per year. Membership forms are available at the distribution. Contact Shelley Vaugine at 617-871-8736.

Grant Beach Community Dinner: Thursdays and Sundays: 5:15-6 p.m., The Drew Lewis Foundation at the Fairbanks, 1126 N. Broadway Ave. Free dinner. Free childcare. Free resources to support you and your family.

Northwest Project Grant Beach Maintenance Classes: Thursdays: 6-7 p.m., The Drew Lewis Foundation at The Fairbanks, 1126 N. Broadway Ave. Childcare provided. Classes meet in the library following the community dinner in the gymnasium.

Grant Beach Food and Family Network: Second & Fourth Saturdays of each month, 12:30 p.m., Hovey House, 800 W. Hovey. For low-income Grant Beach Neighborhood Association members to receive food and household supplies. Participants must be members of the neighborhood association, donate $5 per pickup and contribute two hours of service per month to the neighborhood association by working concessions at Grant Beach Sports events, working in the garden or manning the Hovey House. Food for the boxes is provided by Victory Mission while household supplies, such as toilet paper and other necessities, are purchased with donations.

GREATER PARKCREST
Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Association Chili Supper & Membership Meeting: Oct. 17: 6 p.m., The Way Church, 903 W. Katella St.

Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Fall Cleanup: Oct. 19: 8 a.m.-Noon, One Life Church, 3245 S. Kansas Ave. The City and the neighborhood association encourages residents to take advantage of this free and convenient opportunity to dispose of trash, brush, leaves, TVs and metal. Curbside pickup for brush only is available, but fees may apply. To arrange a curbside pickup for brush, please contact Kate Detoy at 678-521-7455.

Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Association Meetings: Meetings are held on an as-needed basis at 6:30 p.m. at The Way Church, 903 W. Katella St. Contact a neighborhood officer to find out the next scheduled meeting.

HEART OF THE WESTSIDE
Heart of the Westside Neighborhood Association Meetings: Oct. 10, Dec. 12: 6-7 p.m., Passion Assembly of God Church, 806 N. Forest.

Fun-O-Ween: Oct. 31: 6-8 p.m., Passion Assembly of God Church, 806 N. Forest Ave. Candy and prizes for kids 11 and under. Wear a costume and have fun. This free indoor event will be held rain or shine.

Heart of the Westside Community Resource Fair: Nov. 12: 6-8 p.m., Passion Assembly of God Church, 806 N. Forest Ave.

Heart of the Westside Thanksgiving Meal: Nov. 27: 6-8 p.m., Passion Assembly of God Church, 806 N. Forest Ave.

Heart of the Westside Christmas Meal: Dec. 22: 6-8 p.m., Passion Assembly of God Church, 806 N. Forest Ave.

MEADOR PARK
Meador Park Neighborhood Association Meetings: Oct. 24, Dec. 5: 6 p.m., Cowden Elementary School, 2927 S. Kimbrough Ave.

MIDTOWN
Midtown Neighborhood Association Meetings: Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9, Jan. 13: 6-7 p.m., Urban Neighborhood Alliance building on Cox North Hospital parking lot, 918 E. Calhoun St.

Midtown Neighborhood Fall Cleanup: Nov. 2: 8 a.m.-Noon, Cox North Parking Lot, 1471 N. Benton. The City and the neighborhood association encourages residents to take advantage of this free and convenient opportunity to dispose of trash, brush, leaves, TVs and metal. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply. To arrange a curbside pickup, please contact Brian Shipman at 417-880-2855.

OK GROVE
Oak Grove Neighborhood Adopt-a-Street Cleanup: Oct. 5: 9 a.m., Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 2818 E. Bennett St.

Oak Grove Neighborhood Association Meetings: Oct. 29, Jan. 28, 6 p.m., Oak Grove Community Center, 1538 S. Oak Grove Ave. Meetings are generally held at 6 p.m. on the last Tuesday of alternating months. Contact Gerald Clary at gccalry@aol.com for specific information.

Oak Grove Neighborhood Fall Cleanup: Nov. 9: 8 a.m.-Noon, East Grand Church of Christ, 2220 E. Grand St. The City and the neighborhood association encourages residents to take advantage of this free and convenient opportunity to dispose of trash, brush, leaves, and metal. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply. To arrange a curbside pickup, contact Wendell Royer at 417-883-6541.

PHELPS GROVE
Phelps Grove Neighborhood Association Meetings: Phelps Neighborhood Association meets the second Tuesday of the month, primarily at Fire Station 1 community room, 720 E. Grand. Contact an association officer for meeting times.

ROBBERSON

ROUTREE
Rountree Neighborhood Association Meetings: Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17: 7-8 p.m., University Heights Baptist Church, 1010 S. National.

TOM WATKINS
Tom Watkins Neighborhood Association Meetings: Nov. 28, Jan. 30: 7-8 p.m., Tom Watkins Community Center, 2100 W. High St.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
University Heights Neighborhood Association Meetings: Oct. 2, Nov. 6, Dec. 4: 5:30 p.m., Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr.

WELLER

TAI with Dee Ogilvy: Wednesdays: 5-6 p.m., Mount Carmel United Methodist Church, 1001 N. National Ave. Learn Yang Style Tai Chi from Shifu M. Dee Ogilvy, who began practicing Tai Chi 25 years ago at Duke University.

WEST CENTRAL
West Central Neighborhood Alliance Meetings: Oct. 22, Nov. 26, Dec. 24: 6:30-7:30 p.m., Broadway United Methodist Church, 545 S. Broadway Ave.

West Central Neighborhood Fall Cleanup: Oct. 5: 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Campbell Early Childhood Center, 506 S. Grant. The City and the neighborhood association encourages residents to take advantage of this free and convenient opportunity to dispose of trash, brush, leaves, and metal. Residents are encouraged to address overgrown fence rows, backyards and alleys adjacent to your property by mowing, cutting down, trimming and disposing of all brush and related debris. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply. To arrange a curbside pickup, please contact Caron Parnell at 314-825-6498.

WESTSIDE

WOODLAND HEIGHTS
Northwest Project Woodland Hills Maintenance Classes & Community Dinner: Wednesdays: Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m., Classes start at 6:30 p.m., Springfield Dream Center, 829 W. Atlantic St. Childcare provided. The goal of the Northwest project is to pilot strategies over a five-year period to help families overcome the challenges that have kept them living in poverty and sustain their long-term success in emerging from those circumstances.

Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association Meetings: Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17: 6:30-7:30 p.m./ 6 p.m. optional potluck dinner. Woodland Heights Presbyterian Church, 722 W. Atlantic St.

Fresh Food Fridays: Fridays: 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Springfield Dream Center, 829 W. Atlantic St. Come by the Dream Center between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. to snag some fresh fruit and veggies for your family.
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